GMA orders massive evacuation as 'Zigzag' nears

Story below, COL. 2

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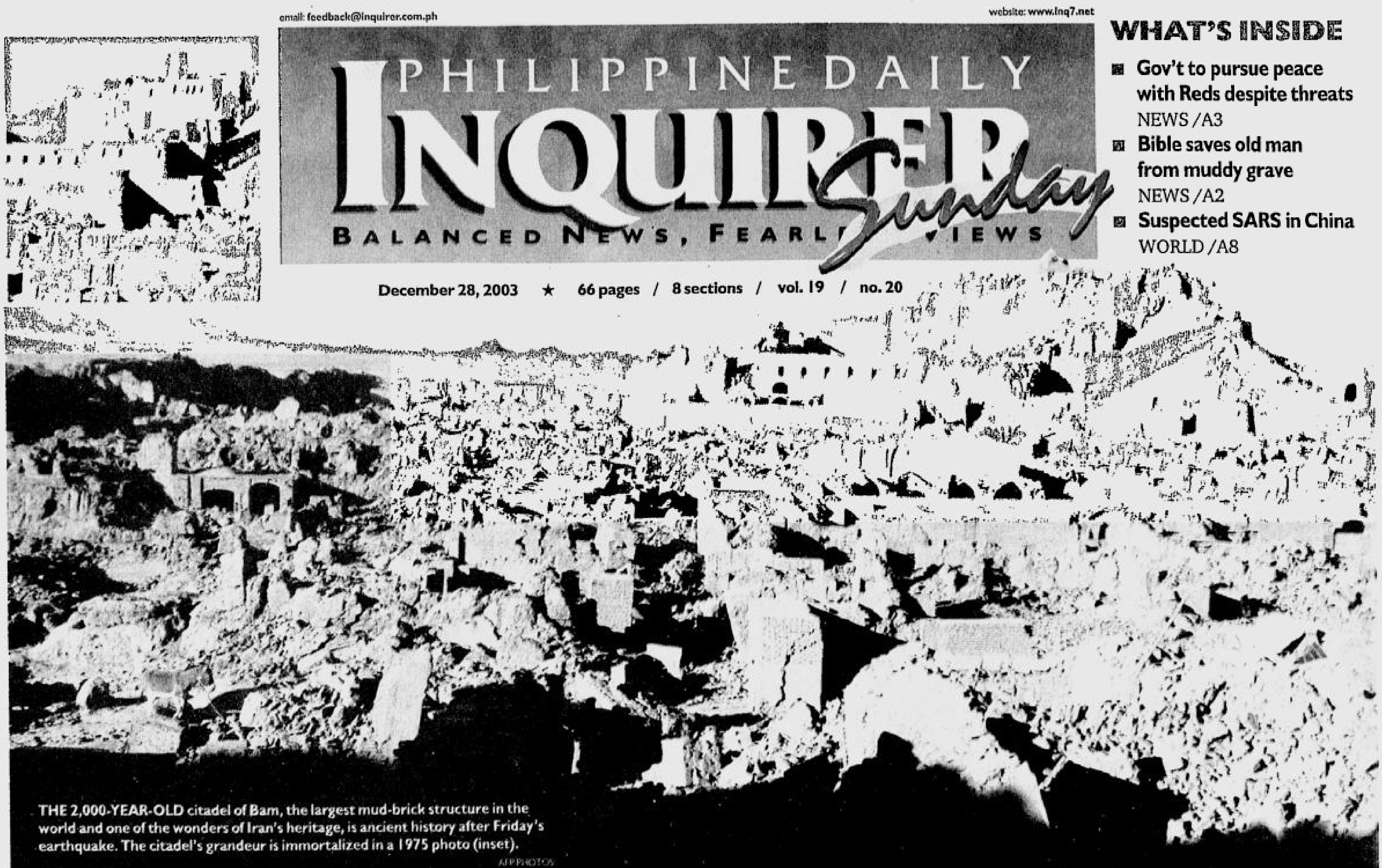


THE 2,000-YEAR-OLD citadel of Bam, the largest mud-brick structure in the world and one of the wonders of Iran's heritage, is ancient history after Friday's earthquake. The citadel's grandeur is immortalized in a 1975 photo (inset).

AFP PHOTOS

World unites to aid Iran

Tehran to accept help from all countries, except Israel

GENEVA—US President George W. Bush, who once branded Iran part of an "axis of evil," and other world leaders on Saturday stepped up aid to Iran, which is struggling to cope with an earthquake disaster that killed at least 20,000 people.

A spokesperson for Iran's interior ministry, however, said Tehran would accept aid from all foreign countries, except Israel. "The Islamic Republic of Iran accepts all kinds of humanitarian aid from all countries and international organizations with the exception of the Zionist regime," Jahanbakhsh KhanjaniKhanjani was quoted as saying by Iran's official news agency.

Israel offered condolences and government spokesperson Avi Pazner said private Israeli societies had offered help. "But Iran prefers to play politics instead of accepting a generous offer by private Israelis. It is their decision," he said.

Like Israel, the United States has no official ties with Tehran. But Bush said in a statement: "We stand ready to help the people of Iran."

A spokesperson for Bush said the United States would be offering humanitarian aid, and a US official said an aid package would be announced soon.

Washington broke diplomatic relations with the Islamic republic after militant students stormed the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979, and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. Bush has also accused Iran of trying to secretly develop weapons of mass destruction.

The United Nations, European Union members, Russia, China, Poland, Japan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Australia and other countries heeded Iran's appeals for help from the international community.

They pledged to send doctors, medical supplies, financial aid, and rescuers with sniffer dogs and special equipment to locate

WORLD/ A6

A YOUNG Iranian woman cries in front of her home in Bam, after an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale devastated the southeastern Iranian city on Friday. Promises of assistance for the disaster victims have poured in from the international community, even from the United States which had accused Iran of being part of an "axis of evil."

AFP

Death toll could reach 40,000

BAM, Iran—The only smiles were on the faces of a movie poster on the wall of a cinema. Everywhere were men and women slapping their own faces and beating their chests in an Islamic ritual of mourning.

A powerful earthquake on Friday has destroyed much of Bam's historic landmark—a giant medieval fortress complex of towers, domes and walls of mud brick, overlooking a walled Old City, parts of which date back 2,000 years. Television images showed the highest part of the fort—including its distinctive square tower—crumbled like a sand castle down the side of the hill, although some walls still stood.

In a statement on Saturday, the Ministry of Interior placed the provisional death toll at 20,000 with more than 30,000 people injured.

DEATH/ A6

CPP paranoia over spies led to witch-hunt, purge

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

(Third of five parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

PARANOIA drove the Communist Party of the Philippines into a witch-hunting frenzy in the 1980s.

It came to a point that party members could be tagged military spies on the basis of their being too hardworking or too brave. In a region in Mindanao, homosexuality was accepted as a telltale sign that a party member was a spy, according to a former member of the CPP Central Committee [heretofore to be referred to as Al].

Setbacks in the battlefield, in which New People's Army commanding officers got shot in the back after ambushing government forces, also fed speculation that military spies had infiltrated the underground movement.

What further fueled the panic that triggered Kampanyang Ahos, the anti-infiltration campaign conducted by the CPP Mindanao Commission (Mindacom) in 1985, was a series of arrests of party leaders in the cities of Davao and Cagayan de Oro in the early 1980s, as well as a report that a party member then being interrogated by the military heard the voice of the head of the Northern Mindanao regional committee.

Al also said the arrest of some senior cadres in the late 1970s and early 1980s—and their subsequent release on the condition that they give information to the military—strenghened the paranoia. If senior cadres were offered the deal, what more those in the lower units?

Ahos started in Cagayan de Oro, a "white area," with the arrest of three suspected deep-penetration agents in May 1985.

When interrogated, the party members "confessed" to being spies. "They also said those in the regional committee were government agents," Al said, adding:

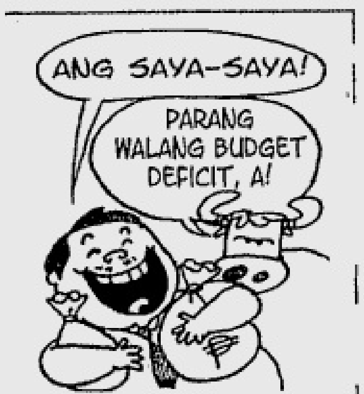
"The pattern of admission and pointing to people was sideways and upward nationwide because of the use of torture."

As the local units were weeding out suspected DPAs, the Mindanao caretaker committee took the initiative to coordinate the purges.

At the time, four Mindacom members had left the island for a Central Committee plenum in Luzon. The plenum started in March and ended in October.

The caretaker committee adopted the methods for the arrest and interrogation of suspects

CPP PARANOIA/ A4



ANG SAYA-SAYA!
PARANG WALANG BUDGET DEFICIT, A!

Bonus: Great divide in gov't service

By PDI Research

SAME government, different bonuses.

All government employees, whether permanent, contractual or elected, have received their mandated annual 13th-month pay and P5,000 cash gift. But in this season of bonuses, barely five months before the national elections, Santa Claus came to government offices, bringing different cash gifts.

About 1.4 million government employees in the exec-

BONUS/ A7

Evacuation ordered as 'Zigzag' nears

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Volt Contreras

LEAVE or face landslides.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a massive evacuation of residents living in upland and landslide-prone areas in the Visayas and Mindanao that were expected to be hit by tropical depression "Zigzag" at 8 last night.

Her order came a week after heavy rain triggered landslides and floods that killed at least 193 people in Southern Leyte and northeastern Mindanao.

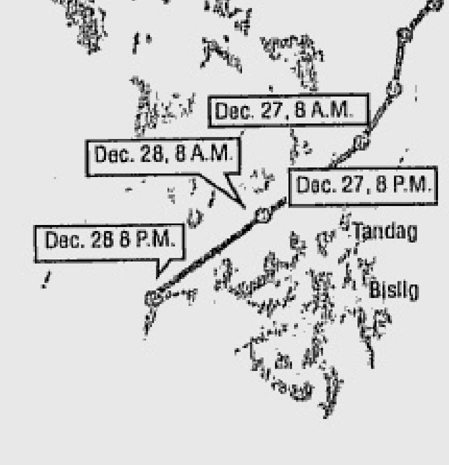
Ms Macapagal said only those living in upland areas planted to coconut and agricultural products had to be evacuated.

Looking at a shaded map, Ms Macapagal identified the provinces and places to be hit by Zigzag. These are the southern tip of Samar, two-thirds of Leyte Island which covers the entire Southern Leyte, two-thirds of Cebu and Negros Island, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte and Sur, part of Maguindanao and the whole of western Mindanao, including Zamboanga del Sur and Norte, Misamis Occidental and Basilan.

While Zigzag is not a strong weather disturbance, it will hit the same areas affected by the landslides in Southern Leyte and other areas where the soil had been loosened by torrential rains, according to Ms Macapagal.

"So we want a massive evacuation. We're asking the LGEs (local government executives) to have a massive evacuation of all those who live on slopes beyond 18 degrees, which are planted to copra and agricultural products. After that we will have to change what they plant," she told reporters after convening the

EVACUATION/ A7



ZIGZAG'S PATH

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Central and Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will have rains and gusty winds. The coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Eastern Luzon, rest of Visayas and rest of Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/12/28/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains and Gusty winds
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains and Gusty winds	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Erap can't be trusted to return, justices told

By Armand N. Nocum

IF FORMER actor and president Joseph Estrada could say with a straight face that he is not Jose Velarde, could he be trusted to keep his vow to return after seeking medical treatment abroad?

A private prosecutor cautioned the Sandiganbayan yesterday against taking Estrada's word that he would come home after a three-month stay in the United States to undergo knees replacement operation.

"Estrada does not understand, or refuses to get the concept of, jurisdiction, and that is expected (of him). Opportunity to escape is a reality," said lawyer Marichu Lambino, a private prosecutor in the plunder and graft case that the deposed president is facing before the Sandigan.

Lambino, a law professor at the University of the Philippines, was reacting to Estrada's charge that people who were speculating that he meant to run to the Bahamas, with which the Philippines has no extradition treaty, were "crackpots."

In a statement, Lambino said: "Estrada's promise to return ... comes from a man who admitted on national TV that he signed as Jose Velarde (and then took it back); from a man who helped take away people's earnings by taking jueteng payoffs ... and saw nothing wrong with (it)."

Estrada has consistently denied owning the alias Jose Velarde, whose bank accounts are estimated to contain a total of P3.2 billion. He claims Velarde is the alias of a crony, Jaime Dichaves, who has fled to Canada.

The Sandigan last Tuesday granted Estrada's motion to leave the country, on condition that he file a "personal undertaking" promising to return and recognizing the "authority of the court over his person and over the cases filed against him."

Estrada's conviction was "a certainty," but he was being given "a world of a window" to escape, "a privilege never before granted to any accused charged with a non-bailable crime," Lambino pointed out. Whether or not he would take that window depended not on his promise, she said, but on his appreciation of how strong the case against him is, and on how well his friend, actor Fernando Poe Jr., performs in next year's presidential race.

One of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers, Noel Malaya, admitted in a phone interview that his team was having "a big problem" drafting the personal undertaking for Estrada, who has refused to recognize the authority of the court, claiming that he is still president.

But if Estrada's letter to the Sandigan was any indication, he said, his client—driven by the pain in his knees and the prospect of getting paralyzed—might be prepared to reconsider.

In the letter dated Dec. 15, Estrada said he was "compelled to appeal to your honors' sense of compassion on account of the pain that I am enduring and experiencing."

Lambino's protestations may be for naught, since even Malacañang yesterday announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo would help Estrada obtain "proper medical treatment" in the US.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President was pleased with the Sandigan decision, but would wait until the court ruled with finality on "other outstanding issues." And then, he said, she would "consider her options, which may include extending further assistance ... for the former President."

On Friday, Ms Macapagal said the Palace might assist Estrada in securing a US visa. *With Juliet L. Javellana*

After 'blue' Christmas, Erap has kinder view of justices

By Armand Nocum

NOW THAT they have granted his wish to undergo knee surgery in the United States, ousted President Joseph Estrada now has a kinder opinion of the Sandiganbayan justices.

The justices, after all, are "compassionate, understanding and independent." This comes from the man who had accused them of bias and had refused to recognize their authority.

Estrada speculated that "mother's instinct" must have moved two of three members of the special division to grant him a three-month medical leave in the US. Now he is praising the independence of the anti-graft court, led by Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario. The other woman in the three-judge division is Associate Justice Teresita J. Leonardo-de Castro. Both women, he said, are also mothers.

"I thank the justices of the Sandiganbayan for being compassionate and understanding of my plight," Estrada told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Estrada had in the past refused to recognize the authority of the anti-graft court, claiming he was still President. He recently asked for the abolition of the special division of the Sandiganbayan, claiming it was specifically created to convict him. He is on trial for plunder.

Asked if he now believes the court's independence, Estrada replied: "I believe so."

Despite the court decision, Estrada described his Christmas—his third behind bars—as "bluer than blue" because he was not allowed to visit his mother.

He said his family, led by Sen. Loi Ejercito and son Jinggoy Estrada, visited him but they did not stay long because they still had to see other relatives.

He said no one else visited him.

'MIRACLE' IN LEYTE

Bible saves old man from muddy grave

By Volt Contreras

AMID the death and destruction caused by the Dec. 20 landslides that hit rural villages in Southern Leyte, a miracle of "Biblical" scope was said to have taken place.

Described by his wife as a religious man, 89-year-old Lucrecio Labandia of Barangay Punta, San Francisco town, had the habit of keeping the Bible close to his body when retiring to bed at night.

The same Bible was serving as his "pillow" when the old man was dug up alive by rescuers hours after torrents of mud, let loose down steep terrain by days of heavy rains, engulfed his neighborhood.

His survival was made more astonishing by the fact that there were four corpses on top of him when he was found, said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

"His wife (and fellow survivor) feels that he made it out alive because of his religiosity," Soliman, who met the couple at an evacuation center in San Francisco last Dec. 23, said in an INQUIRER interview yesterday.

Labandia was still in shock and all "skin and bones" when rural health workers attended to him at the center, she recalled.

The couple received cash assistance from President Macapagal, whom Soliman accompanied during that visit to San Francisco that day.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development disclosed yesterday that the Japanese government had sent some P8-million worth of relief goods and equipment for the rehabilitation of the landslide victims.

The donation, turned over to the DSWD by Japanese Embassy Minister Akio Egawa, were in the form of power generators, water tanks, tents, blankets, plastic sheets, shovels and carpentry kits.

The DSWD also reported that out of the 123 evacuation centers set up at the height of the emergency, only 27 evacuation centers remained in operation as of yesterday, serving 1,448 families or 7,813 persons.

An additional 1,167 families or 6,203 are being served by relief workers outside the centers.

Total cost of assistance to the victims have reached P6.38 million, of which P2 million came from the DSWD, P3.6 from local governments, and about P693,000 from other government agencies and NGOs.

The death toll has reached 191, of whom 171 were identified. A total of 157 fatalities were from Southern Leyte while 27 more were from the Caraga region.

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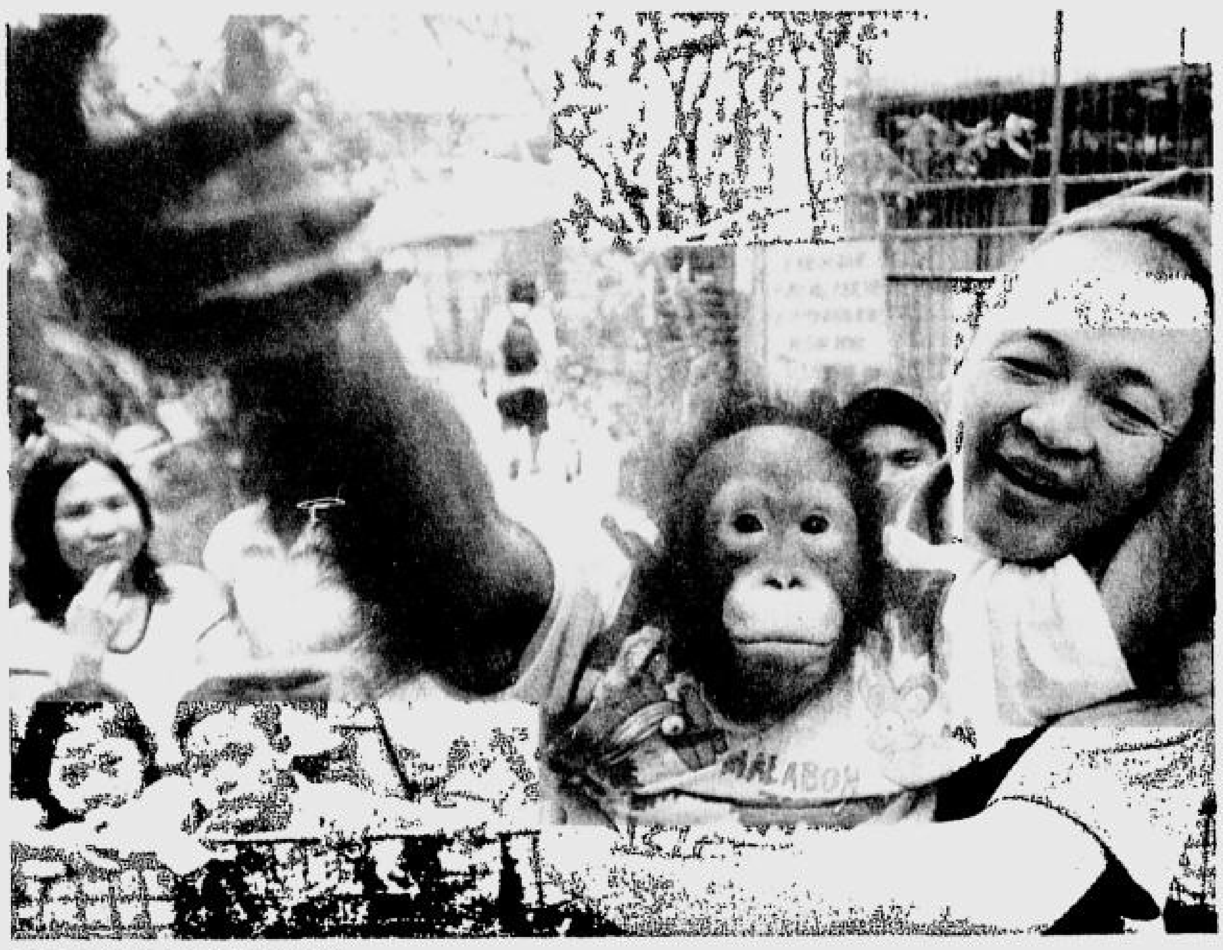


YEAR OF THE MONKEY
An Orangutan named Pacquiao is an instant celebrity at the Malabon Zoo as he hams it up with zoo owner Manny Tongco to ring out the old year, which saw boxing champ Manny Pacquiao rise to new heights, and in the year of the (what else?) monkey. EDWIN BACASMAS

Parties play waiting game with final tickets

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE ADMINISTRATION and opposition camps are playing the waiting game, holding off announcements of their respective slates until the other's is revealed.

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, campaign spokesperson for the President, said the President's team would not be announced until after New Year and close to the extended deadline of the filing of certificates of candidacy on Jan. 5.

"It won't happen before the end of the year," Defensor said.

He said the administration would like to see who the opposition candidates would be.

Defensor also said the vice presidential candidates are not yet coming out partly because independent Sen. Noli de Castro has yet to make his decision known.

"I think that when one vice presidential candidate declares, it is only then that things will become clear," Defensor said.

He said a declaration by De Castro would be the turning point for the vice presidential race.

"There's nothing final as of now but my personal analysis is Kabayan (De Castro's nickname) plays a pivotal role in the vice presidential race. If he declares, then people will have to decide if they will run against him. For example, will Sen. (Loren) Legarda and Sen. (Robert) Barbers still run for vice president?," Defensor said.

He said there would be "an influx" of vice presidential candidates if De Castro decides not to run for the position.

Asked about reports that De Castro would be Ms Macapagal's running mate, Defensor said: "You have to accept the fact that Noli is a leading candidate not just for the vice presidency but also in the presidency. So whatever his decision would be will be the turning point of what will happen to these slates."

Defensor said there would be no political or economic deals in the effort to get De Castro drafted as Ms Macapagal's running mate. De Castro was a personality of ABS-CBN, a company owned by the Lopez group that also owns the Manila Electric Co. and water franchise.

But he said there would surely be a discussion on what Cabinet position De Castro could hold in concurrent position, that is if he and Ms Macapagal win the polls.

"I don't think there will be dealings or offers but I'm sure there will be a governance question. As Vice President, what position or what are the departments that may be placed under the auspices of the Vice President," Defensor said.

Ping to file certificate of candidacy tomorrow

By Martin P. Marfil

THE ELECTION fever heats up with the first serious presidential aspirant, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, set to file his certificate of candidacy tomorrow.

Lacson's camp wants no less than Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos present when the former national police chief makes his bid official.

In a phone interview, Abalos said there was no need for him to meet with the senator, since there were Comelec officials assigned receive certificates of candidacy.

But he said one of Lacson's leaders, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, earlier called to say the candidate wanted to pay him a "courtesy call" as well.

Asked whether he would receive the visitor then, the Comelec chief said: "I will be there. I hope this will not be misunderstood."

Abalos' office is handling a petition concerning Lacson's quest to be the opposition party's standard-bearer.

Aside from Lacson, the Comelec is bracing for the possible appearance of another serious presidential aspirants, actor Fernando Poe Jr., despite earlier reports that he was being convinced to postpone filing his candidacy to Jan. 5, the last day.

As of yesterday, at least 31 presidential hopefuls have filed their candidacies even while lacking at least three hallmarks of a serious bid. They are without political parties, not nationally known, and incapable of launching nationwide campaigns.

Lacson is battling for the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino nomination, and is being pitted against Poe, who is supported by LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Gov't to pursue peace with Reds despite threats

THE GOVERNMENT would still pursue efforts to reopen peace talks with communist guerrillas despite the new rebel threat to launch more attacks, the spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"You can see that the peace initiatives are continuing, hopefully until we can bring the two sides back to the negotiating table," Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

"We want long-lasting peace but we will observe the immediate actions," of the insurgent Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its guerrilla wing, the New People's Army (NPA) Bunye said in a radio interview.

His remarks came after CPP central committee chair Armando Liwanag called on guerrillas to further "expand and intensify" tactical attacks and "isolate and bring down" the government of President Macapagal.

The party would "extend the guerrilla fronts to the majority of municipalities, especially those in the strategic parts of the archipelago," Liwanag said in a statement issued on Friday, marking the CPP's 35th anniversary.

The government is expected to hold talks next month with the NPA's National Democratic Front, and as a gesture of goodwill declared a unilateral Christmas truce with the rebels until Jan. 6.

Meanwhile, in the southern Philippines, NPA guerrillas used the truce as an occasion to hold a public gathering where they boasted of extorting money from politicians campaigning for the May national elections.

Jorge Madlos, spokesperson for the insurgents in the southern island of Mindanao, told an anniversary gathering in Agusan del Sur province, that they were charging a minimum of P50,000 for mayoral candidates to get "permits to campaign" in areas where the NPA are active.

"It depends on the negotiating capacity of the individual candidate," Madlos said, adding that some mayoral candidates were being charged as much as P500,000 and that candidates for higher posts were charged even more.

In the past, candidates without rebel passes had been ambushed.

Madlos said that the guerrillas would still advise peasants in rural areas who to vote for, regardless of who paid for "permits to campaign."

The 9,000-strong guerrilla movement has been waging a Maoist rebellion for 34 years.

President Macapagal suspended peace talks with the rebels in 2001 after the NPA assassinated several high-profile politicians. *AFP*

Even GMA must pay fee for NPA permit to campaign

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur—Even President Macapagal-Arroyo will be required to pay a fee for a permit to campaign (PTC) if she promotes her candidacy in areas influenced by communist rebels.

This was the announcement made by the National Democratic Front (NDF) during Friday's celebration of the communist movement's 35th anniversary.

Jorge Madlos, NDF spokesperson in Mindanao, said the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) recently came out with new guidelines and policies that would be strictly enforced during the 2004 elections.

These guidelines and policies, he said, included the collection of full fees prior to the issuance of PTCs.

Madlos said based on their experience, some politicians pay half of the required fee during the campaign with promises to pay in full after the elections.

"However, those who lost usually do not pay anymore while the winning candidates either pay it in full, in kind or whatever, depends on the negotiations," he said.

Madlos said the "revolutionary movement" was aiming for more funds out of PTC fees to finance its land reform and social services like basic education, health programs and the daily spending for guerrillas.

In 2001, Madlos said the communist movement in Mindanao earned about P40 million.

In enforcing stricter collections, Madlos said even Bayan Muna, which is viewed as left leaning, would not be exempted from PTC fees.

"All of them, whether anti-revolution or progressives, have to pay if they want to campaign and win the elections especially in our areas," he said.

But while candidates for higher posts were being required to pay up to P1 million, Madlos said those running for seat in the councils were only required to make donations as "token of respect."

"They are not required (to pay) because we know that they have only limited money," he said.

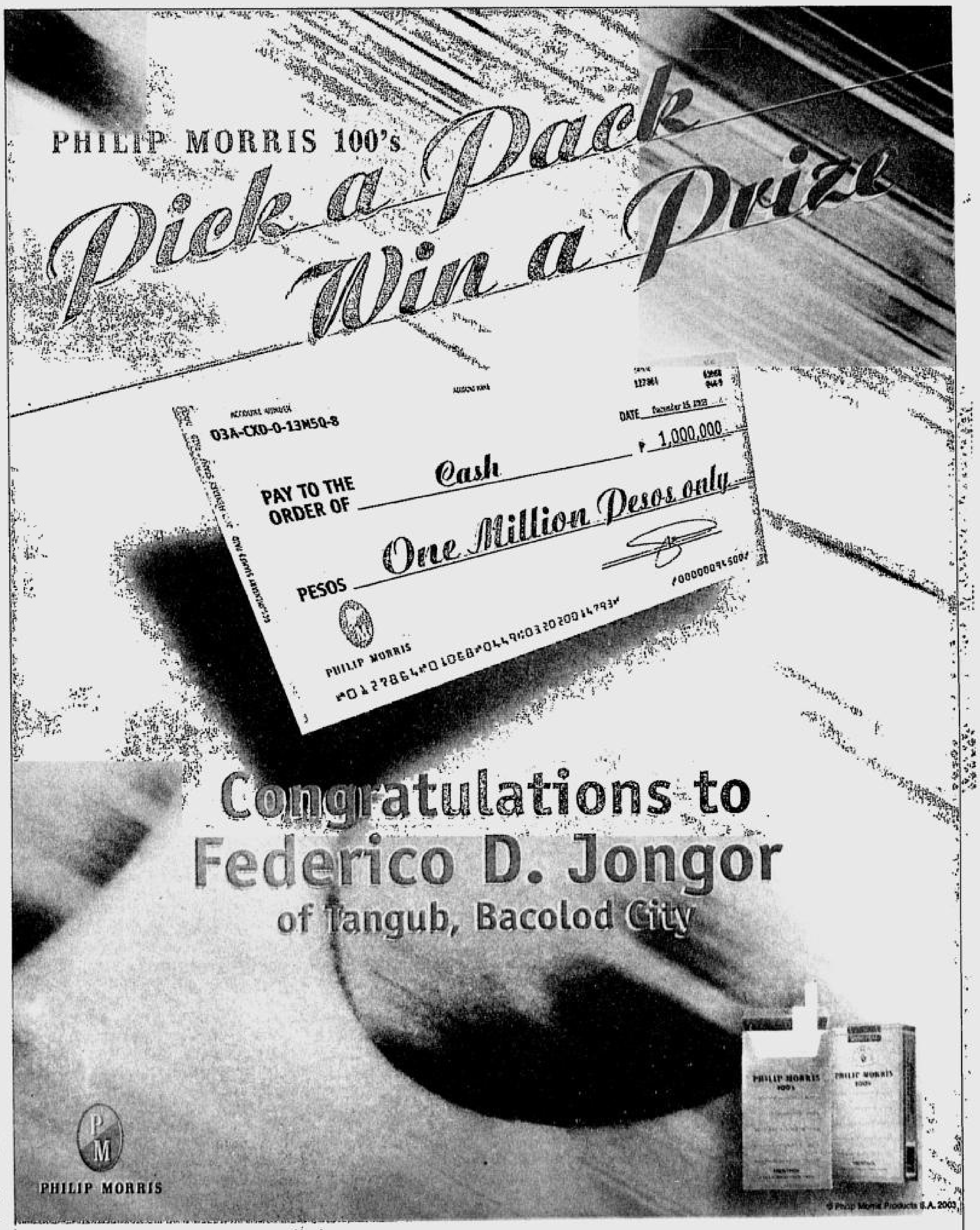
In a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Davao City, Madlos meanwhile taunted Malacañang's effort against the PTC fees "because politicians have no choice but to give in" to the revolutionary group's demand.

"The practice has been done for the past years and there's no way to stop it," Madlos said.

He said politicians campaigning in "NPA-populated areas" have some sense of security for securing PTC.

Madlos also mocked the police's statement that politicians securing PTCs would be investigated, saying the NPA would never release names.

Besides, Madlos said it would be impossible for the police to prosecute "almost all politicians aspiring for government positions." *Grace C. Albasin and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Sison on purges: Law of contradiction operates everywhere

SISON: CPP founder

JOSE Maria Sison (JMS), founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines now based in The Netherlands, cited "the law of contradiction" in trying to explain why the purges happened. These are his answers to the questions e-mailed to him by Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.—Ed.

INQUIRER: Did you not have any inkling that something like Operation Missing Link in Southern Tagalog, as well as Olympia in Metro Manila, and other purges such as those in Northern Luzon and Eastern Visayas was happening in 1987-89?

JMS: I got some amount of hearsay and reliable statements from various people. You must take into account the distance between The Netherlands and the Philippines, particularly the time gap between a Philippine event and any kind of report about it. By the way, you do not mention Kampanyang Ahos, which was the very worst of the bloody witch-hunts.

INQUIRER: Was there any effort on the part of the local leadership to consult you on how to conduct the purge/s?

JMS: At no time have I ever made myself available for consultations with any entity for conducting what you call "purges." However, I am always ready to discuss with anyone the correct principles and methods of investigation, prosecution, trial and evaluation of evidence. I can draw from my knowledge and experience as a student of Marxism, teacher of political science and victim of fascism and counterrevolution.

You are using the term "purge" with some special connotation or tendentiousness, even as feudal, bourgeois and proletarian parties use the same term in common and in general to mean removing from the membership list those deemed inactive, deceased or errant. At any rate, you should be pleased that the CPP uses far stronger terms (crimes, madness, etc.) to condemn and repudiate the crimes involved in the events that you have mentioned.

Contradiction

INQUIRER: Why did the purges happen?

JMS: The law of contradiction operates everywhere. A revolutionary party of the working class can be penetrated by bad elements or parts or even the entirety of it can degenerate. Bloody witch-hunts can thus occur if the proletarian revolutionaries and the people are not vigilant and militant in handling the problems of penetration and degeneration. The CPP should be praised for rectifying the political errors of opportunism, for confronting the crimes and upholding the principle and right of due process. The rectification has been able to consolidate, revitalize and further strengthen the CPP and in effect the entire revolutionary movement.

INQUIRER: Who should be held responsible?

JMS: On the basis of available CPP publications, I think that the CPP and other revolutionary organizations and the people concerned know best who are responsible for definite crimes. But there are of course counter-revolutionaries and plain muddle heads who simply say that the entirety of Marxism-Leninism or the entirety of CPP is responsible.

It is like some people saying that liberal democracy and liberal democratic parties are forever disqualified by the reign of terror in the French Revolution or that the Catholic Church is entirely no good because of the notorious witch-hunts and inquisitions in its history or that the old democratic revolution in the Philippines was invalid because [Emilio] Aguinaldo was culpable for the killing of [Andres] Bonifacio and [Antonio] Luna.

[Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan, which launched the Philippine Revolution in 1896, was killed by the men of Aguinaldo, leader of a faction of the Katipunan who became the President of the First Philippine Republic. Luna, a general in the First Republic, was also killed by Aguinaldo's men.]

CPP paranoia over spies led to witch-hunt, purge

From page A1

first used in the 1982 anti-infiltration campaign in the Quezon-Bicol Zone (QBZ).

Copies of the document on the lessons of the anti-DPA campaign were disseminated to other regions after it was declared a "big success."

Torture was extensively used in the QBZ campaign also known as Cadena de Amor, in reference to the military's anti-insurgency drive of the same name.

"The [Mindacom] generally followed the pattern and methods adopted in Cadena de Amor," Al said.

Special units were formed to go after suspected spies from Mindanao working in Metro Manila, Cebu and other places after the CPP Executive Committee set up a task force to supervise Ahos.

In an attempt to rein in Ahos, the Mindacom issued a set of guidelines in late October in which "generally, torture was not allowed," Al said.

"But we allowed soft torture, which is an undefined terrain," he said. "And we did not deal with the fact that party members lost their rights upon arrest."

Luxury

Al said the concept of due process was viewed as bourgeois. "It's a luxury that can be afforded under normal conditions, but not in a guerrilla war. The survival of the party was more important."

While Ahos was going on, an anti-DPA campaign was taking place in southern Quezon, which covers such towns as Lopez, General Luna and Calauag. "Takip Silim" was triggered in part by the NPA's arrest of members of the government's Civilian Home Defense Forces, who admitted that there was a military campaign to infiltrate the underground movement through militiamen.

Of some 60 people arrested in Takip Silim, some 30 were killed, including civilians, mostly peasants. The regional committee ordered it stopped in 1985.

The Mindacom supposedly stopped Ahos in December 1985, but it continued up to March 1986 in Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, the region that accounted for the bulk of those killed.

Not only cadres but also ordinary civilians fell victim to Ahos.

By Al's account, the "most brutal" were those people, usually peasants, whose family members were killed by the military. They considered DPAs "the lowest form of animal," he said.

The result was devastating. At least 400 to at most 1,100 cadres and supporters of the communist movement were reported to have died in the campaign. Many were buried in mass graves.

Excesses

Nevertheless, the CPP Politburo declared Ahos in 1987 "quite successful, although there were excesses," said an ex-member of a regional committee in Mindanao.

DPAs were killed but the methods were excessive and unprofessional, Al noted. "Many were erroneously implicated."

Because of the excesses in Ahos, the Politburo imposed an "absolute ban" on torture. But its acceptance "that there had indeed been a widespread enemy infiltration network frustrated by the Ahos campaign fueled renewed fears of infiltration in other regions and organs," the CPP said in a 1992 document titled "General Review of Important Events and Decisions (1980-1991)."

What helped spark renewed fears of infiltration were the arrests in Metro Manila in March 1988 of party leaders, including Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar, then head of the NPA General Command; Rafael Baylosis, alleged CPP secretary general; and Benjamin de Vera, alleged member of the Executive Committee.

Juanito Rivera, also allegedly of the Executive Committee, was arrested a year earlier.

Olympia

Amid the arrests and the government's stepped-up anti-insurgency campaign, "Olympia" was launched in 1988 for the Manila-Rizal Regional Committee and CPP national organs based in Metro Manila. Similar witch-hunts were conducted in Northern Luzon and Eastern Visayas.

"In Manila-Rizal, the arrests of suspected infiltrators began after an investigation of the enemy's arrest and 'salvaging' of an ABB (a member of the urban armed group Alex Boncayao Brigade)," the CPP said.

It added: "The National Organization Commission implemented a 1987 decision to arrest a cadre who had been implicated as a result of investigations made during the Ahos campaign, and proceeded to investigate other suspects. The United Front Commission and General Command were overwhelmed by the results of the arrests and interrogations undertaken by the Manila-Rizal Party Committee."

The Executive Committee subsequently issued rules for the arrest and interrogation of suspects. It also alerted territorial cadres on what had been discovered as an infiltration network.

In Southern Tagalog, the regional committee's own anti-DPA campaign can be traced to a resolution passed by a conference—an expanded meeting convened from December 1985 to April 1986—that sought an investigation of the capture and summary execution of committee members in 1977.

A 1987 directive from the Executive Committee for the regional officers to review the biography of party members and to check if they had a relative in the military in light of the infiltration issue unsettled the regional committee.

"We were alarmed because even NGOs (nongovernment organizations) were infiltrated. This was what happened in Mindanao," a conference participant said.

Further adding to the panic was the NPA General Command's advisory to the regional committee at its plenum in December 1987 that the command was holding members of an NPA combat support group known as the Binangonan 11, among whom were suspected spies.

Eight of the 11 were later brought to the camp of the regional committee for "safekeeping," a former senior cadre said.

The regional committee also decided that a sympathizer in Calamba, Laguna, be investigated because it had been observed that party members who visited his house were later tailed by the military, according to the conference participant.

Ludlum fan

As part of the investigation, the Melito Glor Command, the NPA unit in Southern Tagalog, was directed to arrest three people, signaling the start of Operation Missing Link (OPML).

NEW People's Army guerrillas in formation.

PDI FILE PHOTO

By early 1988, Task Force OPML was in place with Kenny, a fan of Robert Ludlum and an intelligence officer of the urban committee, as head. Claro, head of the Melito Glor Command, supervised the task force.

The methods used by the task force were patterned after those of Ahos. The OPML had to learn from Mindanao because Ahos was 80-percent successful, an official of the Southern Luzon Commission reportedly said.

The OPML adopted the rule—first practiced in Cadena de Amor and later in Ahos—of arresting a suspect based on the confessions of at least two "infiltrators."

But later, the confessions of three infiltrators became the norm in Southern Tagalog.

The requirement was easily met because Task Force OPML relied heavily on torture in extracting information from suspects.

It was Kenny, valedictorian of the NPA General Command's National Intelligence Officers' Training, who pushed for methods of torture aimed at humiliating suspects, said a former senior cadre.

The opinion of two lawyers strengthened the use of torture in the OPML.

The lawyers, who were invited to the regional committee's headquarters in Quezon for their advice on the rights of prisoners of war, said soldiers had rights under the Geneva Convention but spies had none, according to two ex-senior cadres.

At the time, the Melito Glor Command was holding four Army lieutenants and a police sergeant it had seized at a roadblock while it was conducting a raid on a Magnolia hatchery in Tiaong, Quezon, on June 1, 1988. The prisoners were freed on Aug. 14.

With the lawyers' advice and the go-signal from the head of the Southern Luzon Commission, who was supposed to guide the task force, torture became the norm.

To stop being tortured, suspects admitted to being spies and named other supposed agents, expanding the list of suspects in the party ranks.

Anyone became suspect, including hardworking cadres and brave Red fighters. "If you're good, you're being a showoff," said a former senior cadre.

Not sure

By September, "we were not sure of what we were doing," said a former senior cadre in Southern Tagalog.

Three members of the United Front Commission, who were in the region, were thus brought to the detention camp under instructions from the Executive Committee to take part in the campaign.

As the torture became more brutal and the number of executions rose, some members of Task Force OPML and the regional committee were implicated. Of the six task force members arrested, four were executed, according to a survivor.

Also implicated were several members of the Central Committee, whom some suspects accused of planning to convert it into an insurrectionary party. (The CPP says it is waging a protracted people's war by surrounding the cities from the countryside.)

Party leaders in exile in The Netherlands were not immune to the paranoia.

By Al's account, they, too, conducted security checks on their staff and gave instructions to a group from the NPA General Command, which was then visiting Utrecht, to check the background of four people in the Central Committee.

The information that spies had infiltrated the Central Committee prompted Claro to form a squad to "Save the Center"—meaning, protecting the couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, alleged members of the Executive Committee, and "neutralizing" the implicated Central Committee members should they resist arrest.

The plan was called off after Claro accidentally shot himself while practicing with an Uzi.

To help clear the confusion, members of the Executive Committee were taken to the camp on All Saints' Day.

Finding errors in the interrogation, treatment and sentencing of suspects, the Executive Committee ordered the OPML stopped and all cases were reviewed.

The Central Committee adopted the policy that anyone whose alleged link to the military was not "beyond reasonable doubt" should be freed.

Just before Christmas, 55 prisoners were released. But it was too late for 66 others, among them the best NPA fighters, cadres and trade union and youth organizers of the region.

Damage

Was there a DPA?

"None," said a member of the review team.

The Executive Committee also ordered Olympia and the anti-DPA campaign in other regions stopped.

But considerable damage had already been done.

"For a year, the party was not doing anything," said a former senior cadre, who attended a Politburo meeting in 1989. "The killings were not caused by the enemy, but by fellow comrades."

The CPP noted that under Ahos, "many party and army cadres up to the regional front levels were arrested and punished," and "many more left or fled because they came under suspicion, became confused and demoralized."

"The resultant devastation was unprecedented in the entire history of the Philippine revolution. Never has the enemy inflicted as much damage as this to the revolutionary forces in so short a period of time," it said.

By 1986, according to the CPP, only two of the NPA's 15 companies of the previous year could be maintained, and big chunks of the guerrilla front and mass base were lost in Mindanao.

Human rights

The party acknowledged that the anti-DPA campaigns went out of control partly because the human rights of its members suspected of being enemy agents were not respected.

At a meeting in March 1989 to review the OPML and Olympia, the Politburo recognized the need to protect the rights of party members and called for the study of international humanitarian law.

"Even if one is a DPA, he still has rights as a person," said an ex-Politburo member who attended the meeting.

"The suspect was first presumed guilty when it should be the other way around," said a member of a team that reviewed the cases of the 66 OPML survivors.

The party was the investigator, sheriff, judge, executioner and gravedigger rolled into one, he said.

Said an ex-cadre who witnessed Ahos: "The purpose of the interrogation of a captured 'infiltrator' was not to determine if he was indeed a government agent or not, if he was guilty of a crime or not, but to extract information from him regarding the supposed infiltration process and other infiltrators.

"His being an infiltrator was supposed to have been established already before his arrest."

Subsequently, the Central Committee issued a document titled "Rules on the Prosecution and Trial of Suspected Enemy Spies."

It condemned Ahos at its 10th plenum in 1992 and said Ahos "perpetrated grievous violations of the individual rights of the suspects, the standards of due process and the rules of scientific examination and weighing of evidence."

It also said the panic that gripped the CPP leadership in Mindanao turned into hysteria "when the arrests, torture, confessions and subjectivist judgment led to an ever widening scale and ever rising level, fueled each other, eroded mutual trust, ran over the integrity and the organizational processes of the party and shook the entire organization."

The Central Committee declared the OPML "hysteria in its extreme and a grave error."

In 1993, the CPP said Cadena de Amor and other anti-infiltration campaigns had defective methods of investigating and trying suspects and of meting out punishment.

Mindset

Why did the purges happen again and again in the 1980s?

A former senior United Front cadre cited the "mindset" of people in a "highly compartmentalized" organization.

"It's easy to get paranoid when suspicion of a security problem arises," the former cadre said, adding:

"The organization gets paralyzed and problems are attributed to the alleged security breach.

"Once paranoia starts, it's difficult to stop in a secretive organization. If you are accused, who will defend you?

"Deeper than that, if an organization is underground, there is no counterchecking, no open trial, no due process."

The former cadre said the anti-DPA campaigns were also a result of "democratic centralism"—the party's decision-making process in which orders from the top are hardly questioned and are given "the benefit of the doubt." *Tomorrow: Who are accountable?*

High court affirms 40-year sentence on rapist

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed the life sentence of a construction worker who raped a 14-year-old banana-cue vendor inside an Army camp in Tanay, Rizal in March 1998.

In a 15-page decision, the high court's Third Division upheld a lower court's ruling that sentenced Raul S. Pulanco to a maximum of 40 years in prison for abusing the girl inside Camp Capinpin in Tanay.

"Undoubtedly, (the victim's) testimony bears all the hallmarks of truth which cannot be defeated by bare denial. Her straightforward narration of the facts leads this Court to conclude that the trial court was correct in convicting (him) of the crime charged," said the decision penned by Justice Renato Corona.

Moral damages

The tribunal also slapped an additional P50,000 in moral damages to the P50,000 in civil indemnity that the Morong, Rizal Regional Trial Court ordered Pulanco to pay the victim when it convicted him on Oct. 4, 1999.

Court records showed that the rape happened at around 7 p.m. on March 11, 1998 as the victim was walking home inside the camp with her 10-year-old niece after they collected a payment for the banana-cue they sold.

"While they were walking along a dark and isolated road inside the camp, the victim was suddenly accosted by Pulanco. He coiled his left arm around her neck and poked a knife at her side, warning her not to resist," the ruling said.

The convict dragged her to his hut nearby while he ordered the victim to tell her niece to leave. The younger girl initially refused but later left because of fear.

The culprit then proceeded to satisfy his lust with the victim inside the hut despite her efforts to resist.

After she was raped, the victim was able to convince Pulanco to let her go after she assured him that she would not file any charges. To make sure that she would not betray him, the rapist even followed her home.

But when the victim's brother opened their house's door and asked her about the man who was following her, she reported that Pulanco raped her.

Her brother then contacted the barangay authorities, who arrested Pulanco.

PCGG now has 45 lawyers

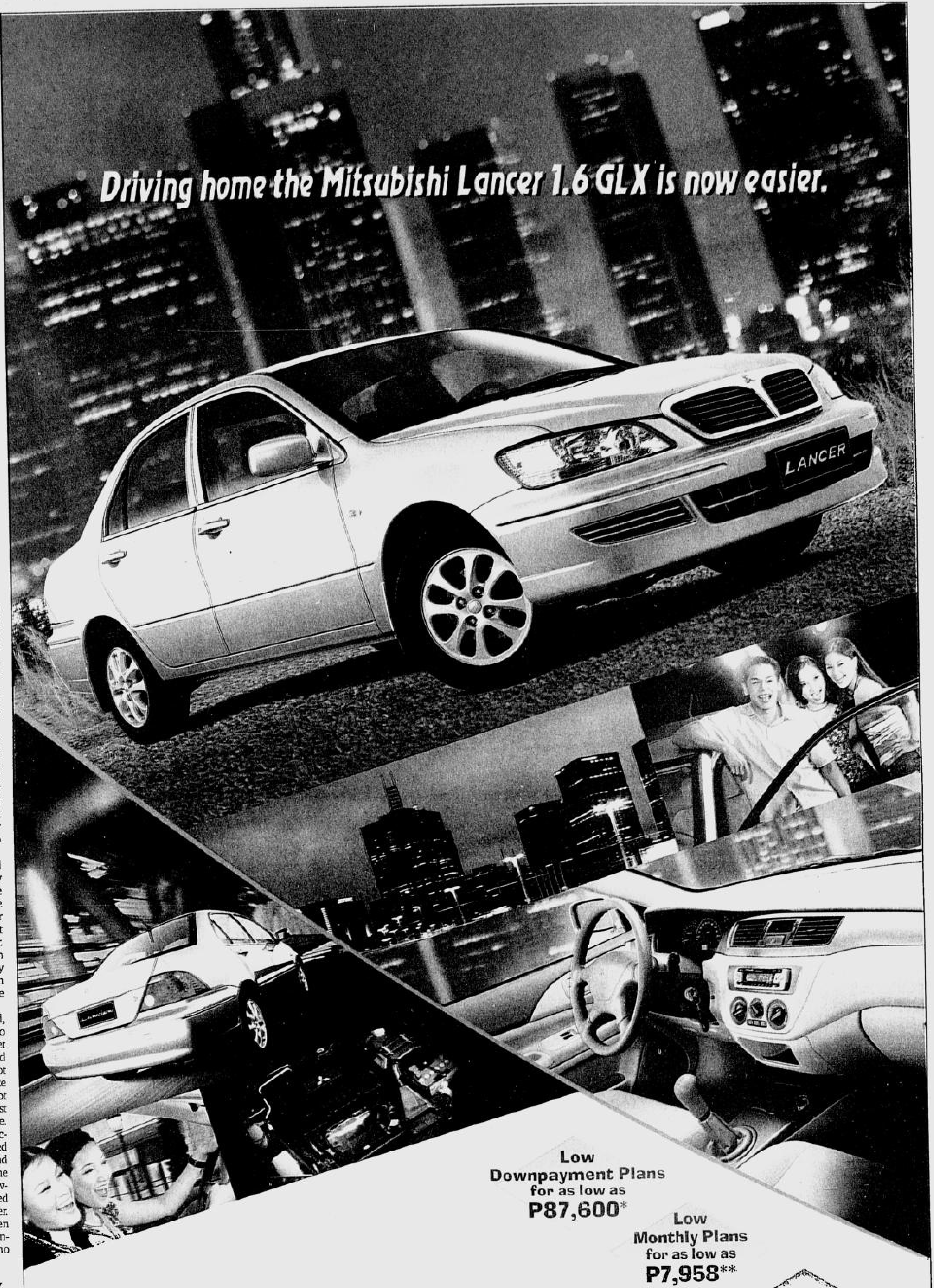
THE NUMBER of lawyers working for the Presidential Commission on Good Government has increased.

The PCGG now has around 45 lawyers, excluding those with the Office of the Solicitor General, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman.

When PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac assumed office in June 2001, the agency had only about a dozen lawyers.

The number was not enough to handle the numerous pending ill-gotten wealth cases against the Marcoses and their cronies.

Yorac would only confirm that they have at least "doubled" the number.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 28, 2003
Holy Family

1st Reading: **Sir 3:2-6, 12-14**

For the Lord established that children should respect their father; he confirmed the right of the mother over her children.

Whoever honors his father atones for his sins; he who gives glory to his mother prepares a treasure for himself.

Whoever honors his father will receive joy from his own children and will be heard when he prays.

Whoever glorifies his father will have a long life. Whoever obeys the Lord gives comfort to his mother.

My child, take care of your father in his old age, do not cause him sorrow as long as he lives.

Even if he has lost his mind, have patience; do not be disrespectful to him while you are in full health.

For kindness done to one's father will never be forgotten, it will serve as reparation for your sins.

Gospel: **Lk 2:41-52**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was twelve years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." Then he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand this answer.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and age, and in divine and human favor.

Commentary

What are the qualities of parental loving at its best? A fine theologian, Wendy Wright, has suggested some characteristics of this special kind of loving. Hospitality, for one: a parent's capacity to welcome the unpredictability and mystery of the child's life into his or her own. Flexibility: the parent's ability to adapt to the changing developmental stages of the child. Discernment, as well: the practice of constantly asking what the loving thing to do for this child, at this stage in his or her life, is. Finally, empowerment, which involves the parent's ability to hand on both the skills for living and the wisdom to see what is worth living for, and the parent's capacity to let the child go, to live his or her own life. Surely, all these qualities are present in Mary and Joseph in today's gospel. The loss of Jesus afflicts them with deep anxiety. Discovering him and hearing his answer, which they cannot understand, they seek to adjust, to understand, to reflect. In the end, years after this incident in the temple, they let him go—not without heartache no doubt—to do the work that the Father had marked out for him, as they themselves had striven to do in their own lives. Holy family of Nazareth, pray for parents and children everywhere.

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AN IRANIAN family walks through the rubble in the devastated southeastern Iranian city of Bam. AFP

World unites to aid Iran

From page A1

survivors.

Swiss rescuers with sniffer dogs were the first foreign team to start hunting for trapped survivors. A 68-strong British rescue team with sniffer dogs, special cameras and listening devices also touched down in Kerman, near Bam, early on Saturday.

Italy, as the current president of the European Union, will coordinate EU aid to avoid duplication.

UN officials said they were releasing an immediate emergency grant of $90,000 to help Iran handle the aftermath of the quake and had sent experts to help assess the damage.

The world body's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha) said the UN team would also work to mobilize and oversee international assistance.

The immediate need was for medicines, tents, mobile hospitals, electricity generators, water purification equipment and blankets, Ocha official Madeleine Moulin-Azevedo said.

The UN children's fund Unicef said it was sending first aid kits and medical supplies. It called for $350,000 in donations.

Rapid response

Russia's emergencies ministry, highly skilled in reacting to frequent natural and man-made disasters, offered rapid response units of doctors, paramedics and sniffer dog handlers to help find people buried under rubble.

"In accordance with an order from the head of state, emergencies ministry specialists are preparing to fly to Iran to give help to the injured," said a statement from President Vladimir Putin's press service after a meeting with Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Itar-Tass news agency quoted the emergencies ministry as saying planes would leave for Iran on Saturday with 100 experts for searching collapsed buildings, 10 doctors and search dogs.

Russia, which has close ties with Iran, is building a nuclear power station near the southern city of Bushehr on the Gulf.

Italy was sending a C-130 military transport plane with a sniffer dog unit, fire brigade and search teams, the civil protection department said.

Agostino Miozzo, the official coordinating EU aid, said France was sending a field hospital and the Czech Republic, one of the 10 countries entering the bloc next year, had also offered help.

"This is the first time EU coordination is taking place for a disaster," Miozzo said.

A 60-strong British rescue team with sniffer dogs, special cameras and listening devices left London on Friday night and was due to arrive in Kerman, near Bam, early on Saturday.

In Berlin, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer offered Tehran help in rescuing earthquake survivors who may be trapped in collapsed buildings and to repair damage.

Turkey, which has plenty of experience in quake relief work, sent a plane carrying search and rescue teams and humanitarian aid to Iran. The aid included tents, blankets and medicines.

Asian aid

Nations across Asia also mobilized rescue workers and pledged several million dollars in aid and emergency supplies for Iran on Saturday.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi offered his condolences to Iranian President Mohammed Khatami and pledged to send 25 million yen (US$234,000) worth of blankets, power generators and other supplies, foreign ministry official Miyo Otashiro said.

The Japanese government and aid groups, including the Japanese Red Cross Society, separately prepared to dispatch 28 emergency workers to the disaster site in Bam. The Japanese Red Cross Society also pledged 100 million yen (US$934,500) in assistance.

In Beijing, China said it was sending a 43-member rescue team and 5 million yuan (US$600,000) worth of tents and other supplies.

The team was due to leave Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Taiwan said it would donate US$100,000 in relief funds to Iran. A rescue team organized by the National Fire Administration is scheduled to depart on Saturday night and arrive in Iran on Sunday.

Another rescue team formed by the private Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation will leave Sunday night for Tehran.

In the Philippines, where landslides killed almost 200 people earlier this week, President Macapagal-Arroyo released a statement mourning the victims of the quake in Iran.

"We know the pain and anguish brought by these disasters and we pray for the souls of those who perished and for the quick recovery of the wounded," she said.

Australia pledged A$2 million (US$1.48 million) for the relief effort.

Prime Minister John Howard said his government would consider increasing its contribution, adding that a large proportion of Australia's Iranian community was from quake-hit Kerman province.

"All Australians are shocked at the terrible loss of life," Howard said in a statement.

The Australian Red Cross opened a public appeal and said it hopes to raise A$15 million (US$11 million) in contributions. *Reports from Reuters, AP and AFP*

Death toll could reach 40,000

From page A1

But two senior officials involved in the relief operation in this southeastern city said they feared the final toll from Friday's temblor could be 40,000 dead.

"As more bodies are pulled out, we fear that the death toll may reach as high as 40,000. An unbelievable human disaster has occurred," said Akbar Alavi, the governor of Kerman city, the local provincial capital.

The leader of a relief team, Ahmad Najafi, said 40,000 dead was his estimate of the ultimate toll. In one street alone in Bam on Saturday, 200 bodies were extracted from the rubble in just an hour, Najafi said.

Workers dug with shovels and even their bare hands to extricate bodies and possible survivors from the remains of flattened buildings in this city, whose population was about 80,000 until the quake. In some parts of the city, bulldozers were moving the rubble.

Thousands of residents of the city spent Friday night outdoors, sleeping under blankets in temperatures close to freezing point. A few hundred slept in tents erected by relief workers.

The government appealed for aid from all countries and international organizations, saying it would waive visa requirements for foreign relief workers.

"The disaster is far too huge for us to meet all of our needs," President Mohammad Khatami said Friday. "However, all the institutions have been mobilized."

In one of the city's cemeteries, relief workers were digging and a bulldozer was excavating a mass grave. More than 20 corpses were already lying in the mass grave. A cleric and 10 relatives were saying prayers over an individual grave.

Apocalypse

"This is the Apocalypse. There is nothing but devastation and debris," Mohammed Karimi, in his 30s, said Friday when he brought the bodies of his wife and 4-year-old daughter to the cemetery.

"Last night before she went to sleep, she made me a drawing and kissed me four times," he said of his daughter, Nazenine, whose body he held in his arms. "When I asked, 'Why four kisses?' she said, 'Maybe I won't see you again, Papa,'" Karimi told an AP photographer as tears streamed down his face.

With hospitals in the area destroyed, military transport planes had to evacuate many of the wounded to the provincial capital, Kerman, and even to Tehran.

At least four C-130s had ferried out the injured so far, Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari told Iranian television.

The quake struck at 5:28 a.m. (0158 GMT), while many were asleep. The Iranian news agency put the magnitude at 6.3; the US Geological Survey measured it at 6.5. Survivors were panicked throughout the day by aftershocks, including one that registered a magnitude of 5.3, according to the geophysics institute of Tehran University.

The interior minister said 70 percent of Bam's residential areas had been destroyed. There was no electricity, water or telephone service.

Iran's Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, said rescue and relief teams had been sent to Bam from numerous provinces.

"Our immediate two priorities are dealing with the people who are trapped and transferring the wounded to other areas," Lari said from Kerman province. "Our biggest difficulty so far is rescuing people because there is no electricity and people are doing what they can with flashlights," he said.

The UN Disaster Management Team in Tehran was sending 36 to 40 tons of relief items such as tents, blankets, kitchen sets, water purification units, high energy biscuits and trauma kits, said Madeleine Moulin-Acevedo, a UN official in Geneva.

Iranian television showed entire neighborhoods collapsed. On one street, only a wall and the trees were standing. People carried away the injured, while others sat sobbing next to the blanket-covered corpses of their loved ones. One man held his head in his hands and wailed.

The quake's epicenter was outside Bam, and nearby villages were also damaged in the region, which is home to about 230,000 people and lies about 1,000 km southeast of the capital, Tehran.

In Iran, quakes of more than Magnitude 5 usually kill people because most buildings are not built to withstand earthquakes, although the country sits on several major fault lines. Iran has a history of earthquakes that kill thousands of people, including one of Magnitude 7.3 that killed about 50,000 people in northwest Iran in 1990.

Historic section

Karimi, the governor, said the historic section of Bam, which was unoccupied, was 80 percent destroyed in the quake.

The United Nations cultural agency, Unesco, asked Iran for permission to send a team of experts to the fortress, which has been under consideration for the agency's list of protected World Heritage Sites.

"The site of Bam is considered one of the very, very important sites of mud-brick architecture," said Mounir Bouchenaki, a Unesco heritage specialist.

Parts of the Old City—once an important stop on the Silk Road through Asia—date back 2,000 years, although most of the structures were built in the 15th to 18th centuries.

Khatami declared three days of mourning. "God willing, we will try even harder to meet your needs," he said in a phone call to Kerman's governor that was aired on television.

Shocked Iranians mobilized to help. In Tehran, volunteers jammed a blood donation center. In Fars province, neighboring Kerman, the governorate asked for donations of blankets and food and for volunteers to head to Bam to help in relief work. *AP*

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Evacuation ordered as 'Zigzag' nears

From page A1

National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) in Malacañang.

Zero casualty count

The President said she had issued the instructions but would call up each local government executive to ensure a "zero casualty count."

After following a westerly path on Friday, Zigzag "changed course to the southwest direction and is now moving toward the Samar-Leyte area," the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration advised residents in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes to be "on alert against possible flash floods and landslides."

Pagasa also expanded its warning coverage. Signal No. 1, which was already in effect over Bicol and Eastern Visayas on Friday, was also declared over Central Visayas and the Surigao provinces last night.

Zigzag packs sustained winds of up to 55 kph, strong enough to peel the roofs off *nipa* houses, break branches of small trees, or send banana plants either atilt or flat on the ground, according to the weather bureau.

Its center was located 90 km east-southeast of Borongan, Samar, as of 4 p.m. and was moving southwest at 11 kph.

Zigzag was forecast to be 50 km southwest of Maasin City in Southern Leyte this afternoon, over Bohol tonight, and 120 km southwest of Dumaguete City tomorrow afternoon.

"The important thing is 8 (last night). That's why we have to start the evacuation now," Ms Macapagal said.

Command center

She said she would set up and personally direct a command center at the presidential guesthouse to monitor the evacuation and the developments along the path of the typhoon. She directed the NDCC to preposition food and medicines in areas expected to be isolated by the typhoon.

"Right now, what's important for me is to man the command center to make sure that every (local executive) is doing what he is supposed to do. But they generally know what to do," she said.

Ms Macapagal said the Palace would issue even hourly weather bulletins. "Zigzag is going in the same direction (Southern Leyte) so we are treating it as a new event and we really have to double time to prepare," she said.

She could not say how many people would have to be evacuated, saying she was waiting for the Bureau of Mines to report to her the specific areas.

Government officials scrambled to relay the President's order to residents.

"Right now, we're calling chief executives in these areas to tell their people living near 18-degree slopes and agricultural areas to evacuate. We're calling everyone to leave to prevent casualties," said Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, chair of the NDCC.

As of 5 a.m. yesterday, some 250 families or 1,250 people remained in two evacuation centers in Southern Leyte, according to the NDCC.

At least 359 families or 1,909 people remained in evacuation centers in Agusan del Norte; 128 families or 717 people in Agusan del Sur; and 300 families or 1,500 people in Surigao del Norte.

Thousands stranded

Over 6,000 passengers bound for the Visayas and Mindanao and two island-provinces of Bicol were stranded as of 12 p.m. yesterday in different ports of the region.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional office, in its 24-hour monitoring of Zigzag, said the five main ports of Bicol had been closed for sea travelers. These are the ports of Pilar (Sorsogon), Tabaco (Albay), Virac (Catanduanes), Masbate (Masbate) and Matnog (Sorsogon).

"In Matnog alone, a total of 4,240 passengers were left stranded, and it will take at least a day or two before the travel ban can be lifted," Arnel Capili, OCD regional director, said.

In Pilar, 845 passengers were stranded; Tabaco, 760; Masbate, 200; and Virac, 40.

Last night, the travel ban was lifted in Virac as Zigzag was expected to be at 110 km northeast of Borongan, Eastern Samar.

About 1,300 passengers bound for Metro Manila were stranded at the Looc ferry terminal in Allen, Northern Samar.

Adriano Fuego, OCD director for Eastern Visayas, said the passengers were provided food by the municipal government while waiting for the Coast Guard to allow them to cross to Matnog en route to Metro Manila.

The passengers were on board 40 buses and 23 light vehicles, he added.

Fuego said he had advised residents living along the coastal areas and in low-lying areas to temporarily vacate their homes. *With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila; Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Bonus: Great divide in government service

From page A1

IMPEACH-DAVIDE campaign was also joined in by court employees demanding bigger pay.

PDI FILE PHOTO

IMPEACH DAVIDE
IMPEACH "CHEAF JUSTICE DAVIDE

utive branch started getting an additional cash gift of P5,000 last Monday. The extra Christmas bonus, which was authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo, is on top of the annually mandated P5,000 cash gift.

In all, each government employee received a cash gift of P10,000 this year. But other government employees, specifically from the legislative and judicial branches, get bigger additional cash gifts.

Court employees

Among them are court employees who recently made news when they wore red bands to demand higher pay just as Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. faced an impeachment complaint.

Under Memorandum Order No. 54-2003 issued by Davide on Dec. 9, the justices and personnel of the Supreme Court are to receive P20,000 in Christmas cash gift. The judges and personnel of lower courts, including the Shariah District Courts and the Shariah Circuit Courts, are to receive an additional cash gift of only P6,000.

The money was on top of the emergency economic assistance given to all employees of the Supreme Court and lower courts, amounting to P5,000 or half-month basic salary, whichever is higher. The money was given to them in November days after the House of Representatives decided against transmitting to the Senate the impeachment complaint against Davide.

Also, early this month, court employees received their 13th Judicial Development Fund allowance ranging from P3,150 to P3,550 (This brings the total amount that each court employee received from the JDF for 2003 to between P33,150 and P39,400).

Employees of both houses of Congress have always gotten more than their counterparts in the Executive and Judicial branches.

Each employee in the House of Representatives has received a P12,000 bonus from Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

P50,000 in MWSS

Senate employees, on the other hand, have received their rice allowance of P15,000. They expect to receive before the year ends an amount, which includes P8,000 in grocery allowance and P3,000 in additional food subsidy.

Also reported to have gotten a much bigger cash bonus are employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. Each employee reportedly received P50,000.

An employee from Manila Water Corp., who reported this huge bonus to the INQUIRER, said that "even to non-performing deadwoods were given such scandalous bonus at a time when the government is supposed to be having problems with budget deficit."

Is it fair and legal for some government employees to have more than others?

"There is nothing illegal in that," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told the INQUIRER when asked if it was possible to have different cash gifts and bonuses.

"When it comes to money, the powers are the same" for the three branches of government, Boncodin said.

The three branches all have the same legal basis for granting additional cash gifts and allowances. This is the power to augment any item in the General Appropriations law granted to the President of the Philippines, the Senate President, the Speaker, the Chief Justice, and the heads of constitutional bodies, such as the Commission on Elections, Civil Service Commission and the Commission on Audit.

This power is the only exception to the 1987 constitutional provision that bans any law authorizing any transfer of appropriation, according to Boncodin. The amounts for bonuses though may differ as they are charged against savings from appropriations and subject to the availability of funds. Hence, the differing cash gifts.

In the executive branch, the additional cash gift was the same for all employees whether they work at the national government line agencies, government-controlled corporation, government financial institutions, or local government units and whether they are elected officials or appointed personnel, according to Boncodin.

4-month service

The main requirement is for employees to have rendered at least four months of service from Jan. 1, 2003 to Oct. 31, 2003 and to be still in the service as of Oct. 31, 2003.

An employee of a Quezon City Regional Trial Court has complained to the INQUIRER about the big disparity between the P20,000 in additional cash gift to Supreme Court employees and the P6,000 that lower court employees received.

Cleo Guerra of the Supreme Court's Public Information Office said the difference was due to the different budget and different savings of the courts.

The Supreme Court has higher savings and fewer employees. Hence, with a bigger pie and fewer to partake of, the employees' share is much bigger than those from the lower courts which have smaller savings but more employees.

Is there a way to rationalize allowances? Boncodin said the power to augment is coequal. The executive branch cannot tell the Supreme Court and Congress how to distribute gifts and allowances from their savings.

She said though that having differing cash gifts could be a problem as this would discourage those who receive less.

This is why the Macapagal administration has rationalized the giving of allowances in the executive branch. Boncodin said this was made possible by pooling all the savings from all government agencies and distributing the national savings equally to all employees of agencies and units who get their funding from the Department of Budget and Management.

This is why starting 2001, teachers and employees of the local government units and state universities have started to receive the same cash gifts given to their counterparts in the national government line agencies. Before this, they received cash gifts only if their unit or agency had generated savings, according to Boncodin.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

7 dead; 9 missing in California mudslides

SAN BERNARDINO, California—Searchers slogging through waist-high muck found seven people dead and looked for at least nine others missing after mudslides engulfed two camps in the San Bernardino Mountains in a terrifying torrent of soil, boulders and tree trunks.

The mudslides were set off on Christmas Day after a downpour fell on hillsides that had been stripped of vegetation by wildfires in October and November. With nothing to hold the soil in place, trees and rocks went roaring down the hillsides, along with the dark-brown mud.

"I thought I was going to die," said Brian Delaney, 19, who was trapped up to his neck before rescuers pulled him out of the mud that crashed into the recreation center at a trailer-home encampment in Devore.

Two bodies were found on Friday near the trailer camp, San Bernardino County authorities said. One was identified by county authorities as Janice Arlene Stout-Bradley, 60. Residents said she was the campground manager.

No one else was missing in Devore, but 32 trailers were destroyed.

Five bodies were found below a Greek Orthodox retreat, the Saint Sophia Camp. Twenty-seven people were believed to have been spending Christmas Day with the camp's caretaker when the wall of mud swept away two buildings on one side of the camp. Fourteen of the people were rescued on Christmas Day.

Finding people caught in the mudslides was time-consuming because victims could have been washed far down the canyon, county sheriff's spokesperson Chip Patterson said. *AP*

China reports suspected SARS case

BEIJING—China on Saturday announced its first suspected SARS case since July—a 32-year-old freelance television station employee who it said was hospitalized in the southern city of Guangzhou.

The man checked into a hospital Dec. 20 with a headache and fever, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said the man was transferred Wednesday to a quarantine ward and declared a suspected case of severe acute respiratory syndrome on Friday.

Guangzhou is the capital of Guangdong province, where the world's first known SARS case was recorded in November 2002.

The World Health Organization and health authorities in Hong Kong, which borders Guangdong, said China informed them on Friday of the suspected case. Hong Kong said it had tightened screening of travelers crossing the border from Guangdong.

The new patient was being treated at the No. 8 People's Hospital in Guangzhou, Xinhua said.

China reported 349 deaths on its mainland in the SARS outbreak, and more than 5,000 people were sickened.

Earlier this month, neighboring Taiwan announced that a 44-year-old military scientist who worked with the virus had become its first SARS case in five months.

Taiwanese health authorities said Friday that they had taken the scientist's wife and father off an observation list after they showed no symptoms.

At the height of the scare, a total of 34 people in Taiwan and 75 in Singapore were under home quarantine. The researcher attended a conference in Singapore before falling ill.

Beijing said in July that the mainland's last 12 patients had been declared free of the disease.

The WHO has been warning of a possible resurgence of the disease in the flu season, and appealed for foreign aid to help China improve its disease warning system and research. *AP*

CHINESE emergency workers cheer after they successfully capped a ruptured gas well in Kaixian County. REUTERS

Chinese gas well sealed after disaster

CHONGQING, China—Emergency teams capped a ruptured gas well with tons of sealant on Saturday, cutting off toxic fumes that killed at least 198 people and forced 41,000 to flee a remote, mountainous area in southwest China, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The disaster was China's worst recent industrial accident, leaving a 25-sq.-km "death zone" strewn with bodies of adults and children, some overcome as they tried to escape.

On Saturday, emergency crews began pouring hundreds of cubic meters of sealant down the well, which had spewed fumes for four days, Xinhua said. Minutes later, it sent a bulletin announcing, "Cap operation is completed successfully."

The government raised the official death toll by seven to 198, but didn't say when or how the additional deaths occurred.

The disaster began Tuesday night when a poisonous mix of natural gas and hydrogen sulfide erupted from the well, which reportedly was broken open by a drilling accident.

Some 9,185 people were treated for gas poisoning and other injuries, and 431 were still hospitalized—17 in critical condition, the government said Friday. Newspaper photos showed children with red faces and their eyes swollen shut from chemical burns.

Officials said earlier the well would be plugged with cement, but Xinhua on Saturday called the sealant mud. It wasn't clear whether that meant dirt and water or one of the chemical mixes called mud that are used in oil and gas drilling.

There didn't appear to be any danger of a new blowout, Xinhua said, citing an industry expert.

No details were released of how the sealing of the well was carried out. But earlier reports said technicians were using earth-moving vehicles and newspaper photos showed them wearing respirators and silvery, head-to-toe protective suits.

Light rain forecast over the next three days should help to clear the air of toxins, Xinhua said.

However, there was no immediate indication when evacuees living in schools and government buildings would be allowed to go home.

Technicians ignited the geyser of toxic gas on Wednesday, sending huge flames shooting into the sky in an effort to burn off the fumes and keep them from spreading.

People in nearby towns were sending truckloads of donated food and clothing for evacuees, local officials and news reports said Saturday.

Donations included 20,000 sets of bedding, tons of rice, thousands of cases of noodles, more than 10,000 sets of clothing and 1,400 pairs of shoes, the newspaper Chongqing Economic Times reported. *AP*

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WorldBriefs

4 US soldiers die

BAGHDAD—Rebels detonated three homemade bombs in separate incidents Saturday that set aflame a fuel depot and injured six American soldiers, the military said. On Friday, four US soldiers were killed in bomb blasts and a mortar attack and another died in a traffic accident, bringing the death toll for US troops in Iraq this week to 11. The violence serves as a reminder that insurgents remain defiant despite the capture of Saddam Hussein. *AP*

Threat to Vatican

ROME—Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said in an interview published on Saturday that he had "precise" information before Christmas about a threat of a Christmas Day attack on Rome and the Vatican. He said in the interview with the Libero newspaper, conducted on Christmas Eve, that he had received "precise and verified news" of an attack on Rome on Christmas Day. "A hijacked plane above the Vatican... An attack from the sky. The threat from terrorism is extremely high at this moment. I've spent today (Dec 24) in Rome to deal with the situation," Berlusconi added. "Now I'm calm. It will pass... I don't say this out of fatalism but because I am aware that our defenses are very high. If that is what they have organized, they won't make it." *Reuters*

Cow parts recalled

PORTLAND, Oregon—Cow parts—including hooves, bones, fat and innards—are used in everything from hand cream and antifreeze, to poultry feed and gardening soils. In the next tangled phase of the mad cow investigation, federal inspectors are concentrating on byproducts from the tainted Holstein, which might have gone to a half-dozen distributors in the Northwest, said Dalton Hobbs, spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Now, it's the secondary parts—the raw material for soil, soaps, candles—that are being recalled. *AP*

Summit to go on

ISLAMABAD—All South Asian leaders invited to a summit in Islamabad in early January have confirmed they will attend, despite security fears after two recent bombings targeting Pakistan's president in a nearby city, a top official said Saturday. Seven leaders, including the prime minister of Pakistan's archrival India, are due to join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in the capital on Jan. 4-6, which will discuss a proposed free trade agreement and other issues. On Thursday, three suicide bombers attacked President Pervez Musharraf's motorcade as he traveled through Rawalpindi, about 15 km from Islamabad. Fifteen people were killed, but the president was unhurt. It happened just a few hundred meters from another bombing aimed at Musharraf on Dec. 14. At least one of the three men involved in Thursday's attack was a foreigner, officials have said, citing gruesome remains of his face found at the scene. That has raised the specter that international terrorists might have had a hand in the attack. *AP*

Still no signal

LONDON—Space scientists said they had failed again early Saturday to pick up a signal from Europe's first Mars lander that would confirm it had arrived safely on the Red Planet. A third attempt by Nasa's orbiting Mars Odyssey at about 0615 GMT Saturday made no contact with the Beagle 2 which had been targeted to land shortly before 0300 GMT Thursday. Britain's Jodrell Bank Observatory, which has twice scanned the Martian surface with its huge radio telescope, has also failed to detect a signal from the tiny lander—which was sent to Mars to search for signs of life. *AP*

Tank accident

JAKARTA—An army tank rammed a public minibus on Indonesia's Java island on Saturday, killing 18 people and injuring at least five others, authorities said. The vehicle was returning from military exercises near the town of Magelang, central Java, when it hit the minibus and rolled on top of it, said police Lt. Heru Widodo. The tank driver lost control of the vehicle shortly before the accident, which took place on a narrow and winding road, witnesses said. *AP*

1st great-grandson

BEIJING—Nearly three decades after his death, Mao Zedong has a new title: Great-grandfather. The first great-grandson of China's communist founder was born this week on the 110th anniversary of Mao's birth, a newspaper reported Saturday. The son of Mao Xinyu, Mao's grandson, was born Friday at a Beijing hospital, the Beijing Times said. It said the family hadn't chosen a name yet. Mao Zedong, born on Dec. 26, 1893, led China from its 1949 revolution until his death in 1976. *AP*

Warehouse explosion

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan—An accidental explosion went off inside a warehouse in a city near the Pakistani capital Saturday starting a fire and killing at least five people, officials said. Workers were unloading fireworks from a truck parked inside the warehouse in a crowded commercial area of Rawalpindi when the blast happened, police said. *AP*

Man in morgue

HANOI—An elderly Vietnamese man who was found alive four months ago after spending seven hours inside a drawer at a morgue has really died this time, state-controlled media reported Saturday. Nguyen Van Quan, 73, died Wednesday following a long illness at Nguyen Tri Phuong hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, more than four months after his daughter and son-in-law discovered him alive there when they came to take him home for his funeral, the online newspaper VnExpress.net said. *AP*

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PDI correspondent gets death threats over 'jueteng' stories

BAGUIO CITY—The threats came through a mysterious phone call on Christmas Day. Curses followed and on Saturday, a funeral wreath was delivered to the house of Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, the INQUIRER's Pangasinan correspondent.

Fuertes said the threats could have been the result of her reports on jueteng operations in Pangasinan.

She said she was shocked when she found a funeral wreath at her gate on Saturday, a day after her latest story on jueteng came out in the INQUIRER. Written on the wreath's purple ribbon was "Condolence, From: Your Friends."

Then she remembered a mysterious call she received at about 11 a.m. on Christmas Day through her mobile phone. The caller, a man who refused to identify himself, told her that she would not live until New Year for supposedly destroying the lives of many people.

Fuertes said received this text message from the same man later: "*P__ng ina mo. Kukunin ka namin. Alam na namin kung saan ka nakatira ... 'T__g ina ka, dami ka ng sinisirang tao* (You son of a bitch. We'll get you. We already know where you live ... You son of a bitch, you have destroyed many people)."

Fuertes said she immediately called up Supt. Mario Sandiego, Pangasinan police director, to report the threats and seek assistance.

Sandiego then ordered Supt. Rolando Magno of the provincial police's special operations group and his men to go to Fuertes' house in Calasiao town to investigate.

Magno assigned a security aide to Fuertes following the threat.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., when told about the threats against Fuertes, offered assistance, in whatever form, in investigating the matter.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who has been waging a campaign against jueteng through the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, also asked the help of the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the threats.

Fuertes recalled that a few months ago, a man reportedly employed by a jueteng operator in the province went to her house carrying an undetermined amount placed in an envelope.

The man said he was just asked to deliver the money to Fuertes. He did not identify its sender and did not say if the money was meant to stop her from writing anything against jueteng.

Fuertes said she did not accept the envelope and politely asked the man to return it to its sender.

In Lucena City, newly appointed Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Leo Kizon said jueteng has already ceased to operate in Quezon province.

Kizon, who took his post barely a week ago, told reporters that he based his information on reports and certifications of different police station chiefs.

But he quickly added that if the media could furnish him information on the continuous existence of jueteng in any municipality, he will call the head of the police station to explain.

For the past several days, jueteng operation in this city has stopped with no bet collectors roaming around in the areas.

One collector complained of a "New Year full of uncertainties." He lamented that when jueteng operations stop, his family could barely eat three times a day.

Jueteng insiders say that the total collections of jueteng bets in Quezon run to about P5 million daily. *Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RPA links NPA attack to poll plan

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Revolutionary Proletariat Army—Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) claimed that the recent attack on its members by the New People's Army was meant to impress upon the public that the mainstream faction still controlled the mountains for fund-raising purposes, especially with the coming polls.

Rey Mallari, RPA-ABB-Central Visayas commanding officer, said the NPA "perimeter raid" was intended to show that they still dominated the areas so they could collect access fees from politicians who planned to campaign there.

On Dec. 16, two RPA-ABB members were killed while another was slightly wounded during the raid by the NPA in Sitio Kakha, Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina, about 85 km south of here. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lakas-CMD heads for division in autonomous area

COTABATO CITY—The ruling Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats party is deeply divided in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao because of the decision of party stalwarts to challenge their party mates in 2004.

And because of this, some party leaders and political observers said the chances of the party's candidates, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, could suffer.

"This could affect the winning chances of candidates vying for national positions, including that of the President, because rival parties could exploit the situation of divisiveness among the local party elements," said Abdullah Mustafa, a member of the ruling party's youth group.

For example, Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam, a Lakas-CMD member, is running for governor against incumbent Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan, another Lakas stalwart. A third probable candidate, former governor Zacaria Candao, is also a party member.

Top party leaders, including Speaker Jose de Venecia and resigned Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, tried to arbitrate for party support between incumbent Sulu Gov. Yusoph Jikiri and his martial law predecessor, Tupay Loong, but it was headed for a "stalemate," sources said.

Lakas-CMD's regional arbitration committee chaired by Datumanong ruled Dec. 24 in favor of Jikiri, citing the party's "tradition and principle on the equity of the incumbent."

But Loong's group appealed the ruling before De Venecia, who had reportedly reversed the committee's decision in favor of a "free zone."

A "free zone" would mean that candidates would vie for elective posts under the same party.

In Basilan, party nomination for the gubernatorial post is also being hotly contested between Gov. Wahab Akbar and Sumisip town mayor Hajima Salliman, who, sources said, had been twice ambushed. It was not immediately known, however, if the incidents were in anyway related to the elections. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1 dead, 6 hurt in 'cracker blast

LEGAZPI CITY—A firecracker vendor had her last Christmas this year after she was burned to death when the pyrotechnic/firecracker products that she was selling exploded 11 a.m. Thursday in Sorsogon City.

Sorsogon police chief, Senior Supt. Arne De los Santos identified the victim as Rosnaida Sultan Cariga, 22, of Barangay Road, Balogo, Sorsogon City.

According to De los Santos, Cariga sold firecrackers at the ground floor of Jomils Building. She died of suffocation after she was trapped inside the building during the fire, which lasted about 15 minutes.

Six other persons were injured in the fire.

Police identified them as Ernesto Jamila, owner of a watch repair shop and resident of Barangay Salog; Nelia Sultan; Cherry Omnis; Morayda Salic, both from Barangay Road, Balogo; Marites Ego and Maria Gracia Ego, all of Barangay Balete, Bacon District, Sorsogon City.

Police estimated the damage at P60,000.

Chief Supt. Jaime L. Lasar, Bicol police chief, reiterated an order for the strict enforcement of Republic Act 7183 or the law regulating the manufacture and sale of firecrackers and pyrotechnics in cooperation with local government units to avoid accidents like the one in Sorsogon City.

Lasar told the INQUIRER that the firecracker explosion in Sorsogon was the only untoward incident reported on Christmas Day in Bicol. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Deadly chemical peddled as shabu, warns PNP exec

CABUYAO, Laguna—The government's anti-drug czar last week warned drug users in the country that pushers are selling a deadly chemical substance and passing this off as shabu.

Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said the anti-drug campaign forced drug dealers into selling ephedrine.

Aglipay, chief of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AID-SOTF), said ephedrine is being sold at almost the same price as shabu in Metro Manila.

He said the chemical, used as a precursor ingredient in making shabu, is twice as strong as shabu and is far more dangerous.

The anti-drug czar said he first heard of these reports after the initial results of their operations led to the dismantling of several illegal drug laboratories in the country.

He said the reports were proven true only after they seized 14 kilos of ephedrine packed as shabu in a raid in Metro Manila last week.

Aglipay was here as guest speaker in a consultative meeting of local government and police officials of Laguna held at this town's municipal hall.

"Definitely, the illegal operations of drug syndicates in the country were badly affected by our anti-drug campaigns. We have already dismantled 16 of their clandestine laboratories in only six months. And they know that we're on the lookout for others," Aglipay said.

"These (operations) pushed them to sell ephedrine as shabu without the users' (knowledge). They are cheating these drug addicts into using a very dangerous chemical," he added.

Aglipay said that because of its crystal-like appearance, "only hustlers in the drug trade could possibly differentiate ephedrine from shabu."

He said ephedrine is usually packed in barrels when being stored in drug syndicates' warehouses.

Bad effect

Aglipay said the effect of ephedrine is more potent than shabu. He said using this chemical could make a person insane in a few hours.

"Drug makers normally mix liquid chemicals to lower down the effect of this chemical. Imagine using ephedrine in its purest form. This is very hazardous to any individual," he explained.

But Aglipay reiterated that these chemicals were not locally produced but were smuggled into the country in powder form from India and China by big and influential drug syndicates.

He said that although they had already neutralized seven of the country's nine biggest crime groups involved in illegal drugs, remnants of these groups are continuing small operations on their own.

"They were able to bring ephedrine into the country illegally. They have stored these chemicals in their labs as the main ingredient in manufacturing shabu," he said.

In the six months of the anti-drug campaign, Aglipay said police have already seized shabu and ephedrine worth more than P13 billion.

Police have arrested over 23,000 drug suspects during this period, he added.

Diet pills

The US Food and Drug Administration lists ephedrine as a primary ingredient in diet pills because of its effectiveness in weight loss. It is also used as a common ingredient for energy-boosting food supplements used by athletes and medicines for asthma.

Derived from shrub-like plants called ephedra, ephedrine is also known as ma huang, squaw tea, mormon tea or ephedra. The plant is abundant in central Asia and is used in ancient medicinal preparations.

A website of a group of lawyers helping alleged victims of ephedrine said the substance is suspected to have caused over 800 deaths in the United States since 1994.

The group said ephedrine causes heart attack and stroke.

"These serious adverse effects include hypertension (elevated blood pressure), palpitations (rapid heart rate), neurophathy (nerve damage), myopathy (muscle injury), psychosis, stroke, memory loss, heart rate irregularities, insomnia, nervousness, tremors, seizures, heart attacks and death," the group said in their website.

The group added that the FDA "has proposed to prohibit the marketing of dietary supplements containing 8 milligrams or more of ephedrine alkaloids per serving."

In February this year, investigators said ephedrine was the culprit in the sudden death of baseball pitcher Steve Bechler of the Baltimore Orioles who suffered a heart attack less than 24 hours after taking Xenadrine, an over-the-counter drug that contains ephedra or ephedrine.

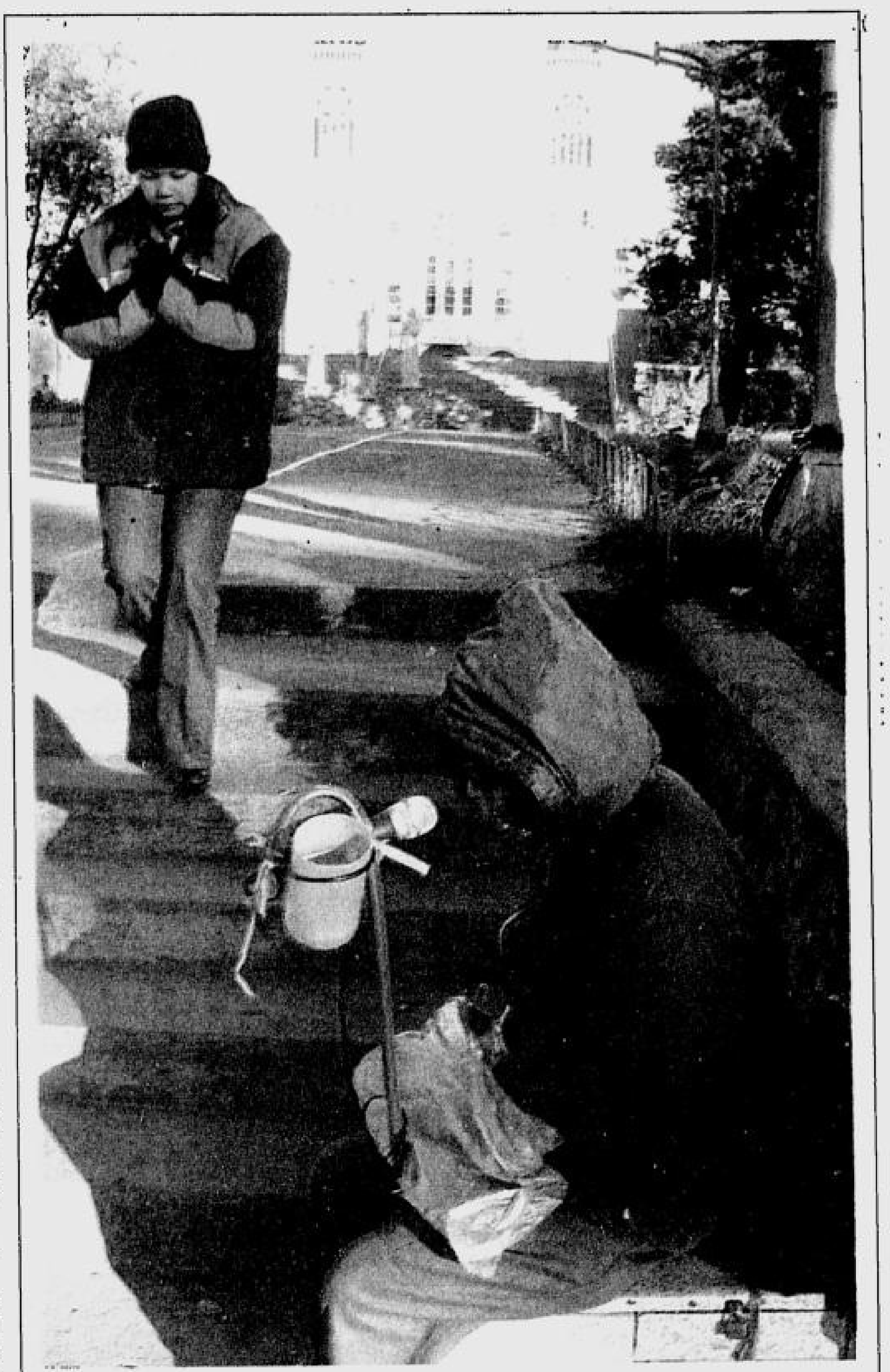
Successes

"In a short time, we have knocked out the operations of 143 local drug groups. Filed over 16,000 cases and cleared over 3,500 barangays. Imagine how much more we could do if we are able to sustain these operations," Aglipay said.

But he said the police success does not lie on statistics alone.

He said they have been getting "feedbacks" from different sectors how their campaign reduced the number of crimes that resulted from illegal drug abuse.

"The past six months has indeed been a very bountiful harvest for (us).*Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



MERCY MISSION
A beggar braves Baguio City's biting cold and waits patiently for alms on a pathway leading to the Baguio Cathedral. Beggars are a common sight in Baguio City and their number appears to double during the holidays. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

ROUNDUP

Rape suspect nabbed

CAMP BADO DANGWA, Benguet—A suspected rapist who was said to have preyed on nine children aged 8 to 12 years, was arrested on Monday by policemen after a year of surveillance. Richard Padilla, 27, was arrested in his house in Barangay San Vicente, Baguio City. Supt. Francisco Manalo Jr., Baguio police director, said three alleged victims of Padilla identified him in a police lineup. Manalo said Padilla had asked the girls to help him gather firewood and pinecones. Padilla, according to reports, would promise the girls P100 and later rape them. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 killed in collision

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur—Two cousins were killed when the scooter they were riding in was hit by a bus along the national highway here on Christmas day. Police identified the victims as Jerry Rabanal, 21, and Eric Rabanal, 14. The victims were on their way to Santa town when a northbound Auto Bus hit them in Barangay Bulag West here at about 11 p.m. Police said the victims' scooter swerved to the bus' lane, resulting in the collision. The victims, reports said, were thrown off their scooter and were killed instantly. The bus driver, Noel Nagtalon, surrendered to the Bantay police. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Confusion in pier

BATANGAS CITY—The construction of the Batangas Port Livelihood Center (BPLC), which started in November here, have confused passengers who have a hard time getting into the passenger terminal as the former parking space and gate have been closed. Fe Faytaren, officer in charge of the passenger terminal, said she has already requested the contractor to put up signs on the entrance and the exit paths. But even as she assured that the pier operation has been going on smoothly with more boats, some passengers have complained of missing their boats. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Chicken prices up

BATANGAS CITY—While the price of pork was retained at P120 per kilo in the new market here, a kilo of chicken rose from P100 to P130 a kilo before Christmas. Vendors said the rise in prices was due to the scarcity of chicken. "We have to buy live chicken from as far as Lipa City because we don't have suppliers here anymore," a vendor in the new market said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Australia OKs P600 million in aid for Misamis Occidental

OROQUIETA CITY—The Australian government has approved a P600-million fund for the second phase of a program aimed at strengthening the capability of town governments in Misamis Occidental to manage community development efforts.

The first phase of the Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program (PALS),.which was implemented over a five-year period would end this year and has covered at least six towns.

For the second phase, at least eight towns would receive funds for community development, strengthening of their local government units, and the establishment of a program development facility (PDF) that funds livelihood and other community level development initiatives.

Lindsay Chan, the Australian team leader of PALS, said the successful implementation of the program's first phase was key to the decision of the Australian government to roll out the second phase, which is expected to start by February next year.

Chan said the program's first phase helped local governments improve their economies through new capital for livelihood projects.

A main feature of the assistance package is the allocation of P1 million for every barangay to finance livelihood ventures of communities.

Chan said the funds are released directly to project beneficiaries, avoiding the traditional bureaucratic route that is usually the cause of delays in projects. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops manning anti-kidnap 'chokepoints' warned vs abuses

NAKTF chief Angelo Reyes supervises a chokepoint along the South Luzon Expressway amid efforts to stop kidnapping syndicates and at the same time present a good image of law enforcement agencies. PHOTO FROM NAKTF

IBA, Zambales—A top official of the Central Luzon police has asked policemen in the region to "stick to the rules" and respect motorists as they start manning checkpoints in the region.

The instruction was made as anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes ordered an investigation on reports that two policemen had extorted money from a driver of a 10-wheel truck at a chokepoint.

Reyes ordered SPO3 Celso Octaviano and PO2 Luisito Manalaysay investigated for alleged extortion on Dec. 10.

"I will not allow these abusive policemen to break our stride in curbing criminality," said Reyes in a statement.

Reyes asked the public to report any abuses committed by policemen at chokepoints and call 727-0000, the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force hotline.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, regional police director, warned policemen under his command that he will not tolerate abuse.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier ordered the establishment of checkpoints in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, the two regions nearest Metro Manila, after noting that it was effective in preventing crimes, particularly kidnapping and bank robberies in the metropolis.

Querol also asked motorists to cooperate with policemen in enforcing security checks.

"Motorists should bear the same responsibility and must cooperate with the police at all times in order to prevent unnecessary provocations that could (create) problems," he said. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Kidnap suspect's kin express shock over arrest

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

JARO, Leyte—The arrest of Inocencio Saliente, the alleged suspect in the kidnapping-killing of Coca-Cola executive Betti Sy, came as a shock to his family.

His elder sister Josefina Barasa, 37, said they did not even know that Saliente, 27, whom they fondly call "Ising" was arrested by the police on Christmas Eve.

Her mother Lumida, 56, declined to give a statement when the INQUIRER interviewed her in their house in Villa Paz, an interior village about 8 km from the town proper.

"I have more important things to do," she said, adding that she was about to help a mother deliver a baby at that time. She identified herself as a licensed "*kumadrona* (midwife)."

But Barasa said her younger brother was "innocent."

"My brother cannot do that horrible thing. He is a very good man. We do not believe it," she said.

She said they were shocked upon learning of the arrest of Saliente, the fifth among nine siblings.

Police arrest bandit leader

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Sarangani police force on Tuesday arrested an alleged leader of a notorious armed group operating in the boundary of Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat.

In a report reaching the Sarangani police command, the suspect was identified as a certain Mike Alfonso alias Mama Lauban, leader of the dreaded Alfonso bandit group in the area.

Supt. Willie Dangane, Sarangani police chief, told reporters that Alfonso was arrested by virtue of a warrant issued by a court in Maasim town where he is facing charges of murder, frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms. He was also tagged as the mastermind in an ambush in Sultan Kudarat two years ago where a policeman and a militiaman were killed. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops file murder case vs 3 in law student's slaying

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Police filed a murder complaint against three suspects in the killing of a freshman law student on Nov. 21.

The complaint was filed against Experto Boyo alias Dodong, Jussel Guitones alias Choychoy and their still unidentified companion before the city prosecutor's office on Dec. 23.

The filing stemmed from the statements of witnesses who alleged that the three were involved in the killing of Jose Wilfredo Regner, 29, and a freshman law student at the Bohol Institute of Technology.

Regner was killed in front of the University of Bohol along Ma. Clara Street, raising serious doubts on the peace and order situation in the city.

A lone gunman shot the victim in the neck at about 9:45 p.m., a few minutes after he alighted from a motorcycle on his way home.

The gunman casually rode on a waiting yellow Kawasaki Aura motorcycle driven by his companion and with a third man.

In a sworn statement, one witness claimed that he had just passed by Guitones who was sitting on a motorcycle that was parked on the roadside when he heard a single gunshot.

When he looked at the direction of the gunshot, he saw a man fall to ground and another holding a nickel-plated gun.

The witness said he did not know that the victim was Regner but the man holding the gun was Boyo, whom he said he knew previously.

The witness said he had seen Boyo, whom he identified as a suspect in another shooting, three times already.

SPO2 David Niluag of the Tagbilaran PNP investigation section said Boyo initially hid in a parked bus at the Tagbilaran Integrated Bus Terminal on the night of the shooting.

Cops sue environment, local execs for logging

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police authorities in Sarangani province filed illegal logging and graft charges against officials and personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) covering the towns of Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum.

Supt. Willie Dangane, Sarangani police director, said aside from Cenro officer Ruel Divino and DENR foresters Rolando Evangelio and Jerric Labor, police also sued forest rangers Elpidio Doctor and Alfonso Cuaresma; Army Sgt. Danilo Galla and kagawad Joel Alas of Barangay Zion before a local court in Alabel town on Tuesday.

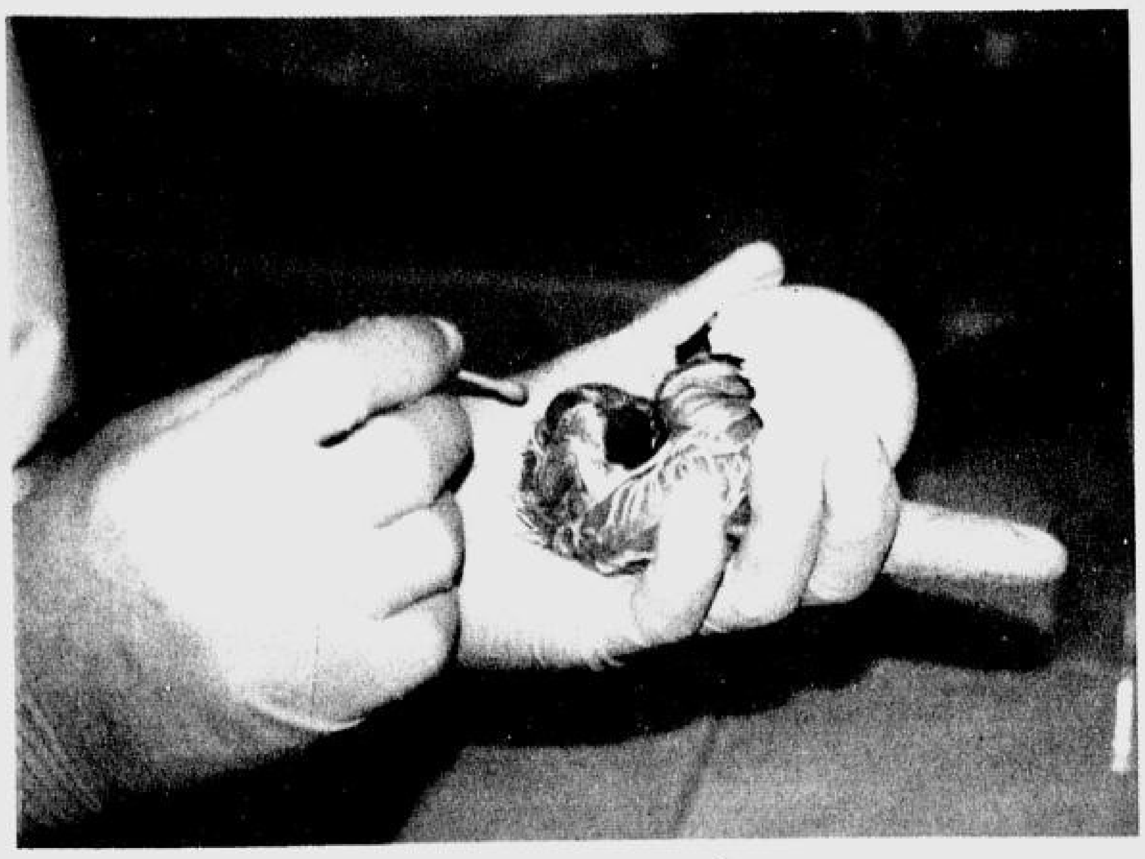
He said also included in the illegal logging charges were Francisco Garcia Jr., Nicasio Garcia, Felomino Premide, Judith Ibo, Boni Garcia, Fred Arellano, Manny Tan and George Tanedo, chair of Zion Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco), a holder of a logging concession in the area.

Dangane said police have decided to file the charges after the seizure of about 17,000 board feet of illegally cut lumber.

On Thursday evening last week, police in coordination with Mike Andang, Sarangani provincial environment and natural resources officer, seized the hot items loaded in two 10-wheeler trucks along the national highway in Barangay Tinoto in Maasim.

The logs were being transported by the Zifamulco, a holder of a Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) permit.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun had issued a suspension order in January on all resource use permits (RUPs) of CBFM holders nationwide after receiving persistent complaints. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



THE BEST gift of the season for eagle conservationists emerges from its shell at the Philippine Eagle Foundation headquarters in Davao. The eaglet, weighing 123 grams, was bred and hatched in captivity. PHOTO FROM PEF

Eagle breeders get best gift of the holidays

DAVAO CITY—Although it was born five days before Christmas, conservationists here regard the hatching of a 123-gram eaglet as one of the best gifts they got for the season.

The new eaglet, a product of natural pairing of eagles Jag and Ka Brianne, started to pip its shell inside the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Malagos, Baguio District on Thursday morning.

It completely broke out of its shell on Saturday, according to PEF officials.

Domingo Tadena, director for conservation breeding, said an eaglet normally breaks out of its shell 24 hours after the first pip.

However, the still unnamed eaglet had a hard time because it was in abnormal position inside the egg.

Tadena and three staffers decided to help the eaglet out of fear it could die.

"It's a merry Christmas at the Philippine Eagle Foundation. We won't be getting much sleep with the newborn and a couple more eggs to take care of, but an addition to the dwindling number of Philippine Eagles is always a joy," Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, said after the bird's successful hatching.

The eaglet is the 14th eagle bred and hatched in captivity since 1992. The center now has 30 eagles, including those previously caught in the wild.

Like all previously hatched eaglets, the newly hatched bird needs godparents, who would foot the bill for its feeds and other expenses.

The PEF-Adopt-an-Eagle Program aims to provide private individuals and companies the chance to become godparents of an eagle for P100,000 per year for six years.

The center has been aiming to release the eagles back into the wild to help complement the declining eagle population.

The Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), the world's largest bird of prey, was declared an endangered specie in 1995 and was named the country's national bird in 1995. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov accused of fund misuse; says raps part of 'dirty play'

CITY OF MALOLOS—A non-government anti-graft group has accused Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz of misusing public funds when she used the province's special education fund as collateral for a P216-million loan.

In a statement, the Movement for Responsible Enterprise (More) warned De la Cruz that it will file technical malversation charges against her for using the SEF to secure a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

De la Cruz, however, dismissed More's charges as "non-issues," saying these were parts of a "dirty play" employed by her political opponents.

She said she does not want to dignify such accusations, which she called "black propaganda."

The More statement quoted Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the author of the Local Government Code of 1991, who said the use of the SEF as loan collateral was "subject to legal question."

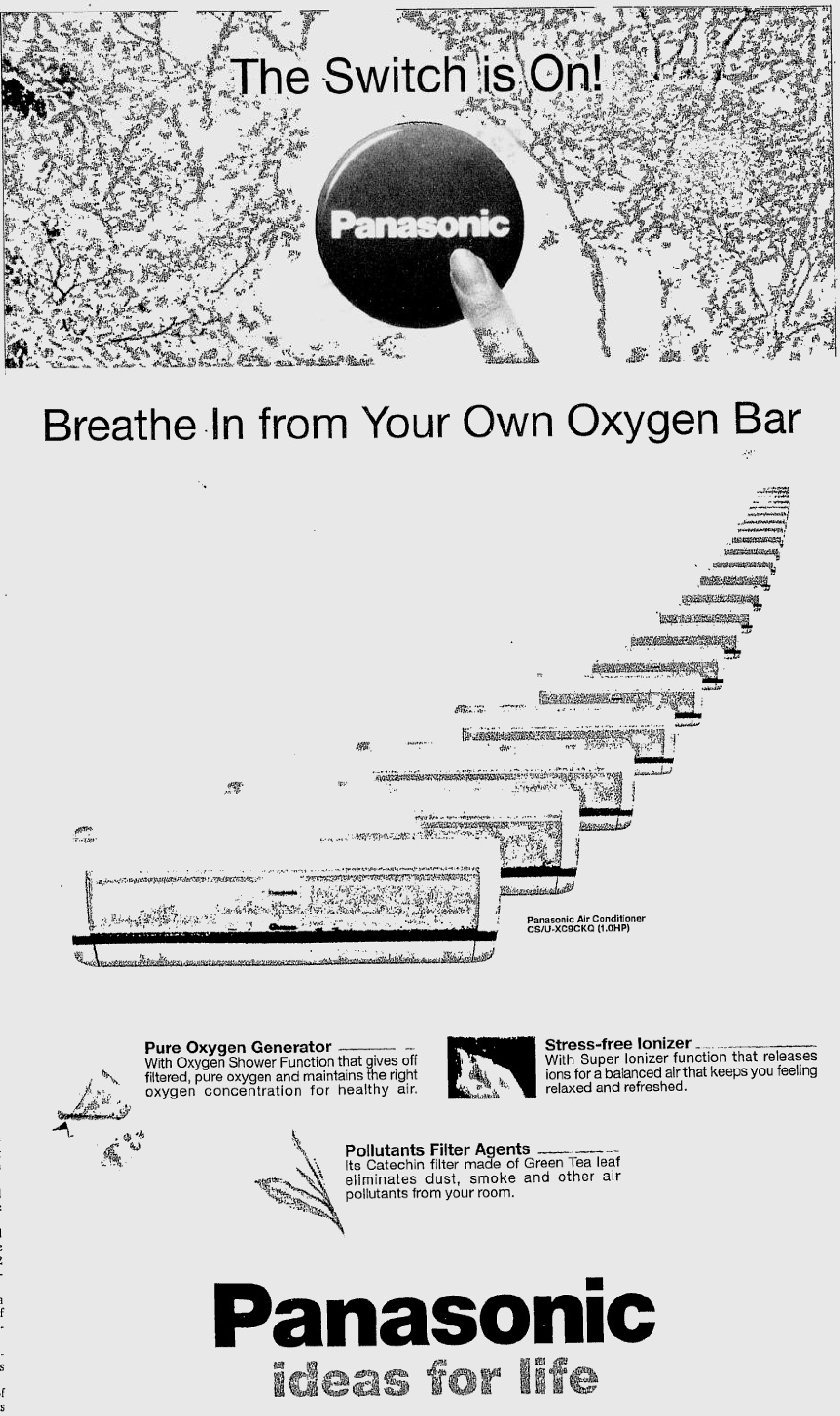
Pimentel said education "is not a devolved function and thus remains in the hands of the central government."

More said LBP loan documents showed that the provincial government will use the P216-million loan for the construction of 82 two-story school buildings, with four classrooms per building.

It said the documents showed that De la Cruz assigned a third of the province's SEF of the province annually for seven years to service the loan.

The SEF, the group said, is collected in variable percentages by the local government units out of real property taxes paid in their areas.

The average SEF allocation is 1 percent of the 2.5 percent normally charged by LGUs as real property tax. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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OPINION

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Faith and politics

EDITORIAL

HOW do you solve a problem like Brother Eddie Villanueva? The spiritual leader's political plans must have cast a pall over the season's merrymaking in Malacañang. If Villanueva, the founder of the Jesus is Lord evangelical group, pushes through with his plan to run for the presidency, he could spoil President Macapagal-Arroyo's chances of winning a full term in May.

JIL claims a membership of five million, but we doubt if even a simple majority of this total will vote for Villanueva. As powerful businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. has learned twice in a dozen years, a kingmaker does not necessarily have the electoral support to become king. But in the close race that next year's presidential election looks set to be, a million JIL members voting for Villanueva, instead of the President the movement has supported in the last three years, could spell disaster for her.

Like the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, the Jesus is Lord movement is a campaigner's dream. Its main prayer assemblies bring hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic believers together regularly, even routinely.

But like El Shaddai too, its political clout is open to question. The perception that Brother Mike Velarde and the group he founded were responsible for Joseph Estrada's victory in 1998 persists, but in truth El Shaddai devotees and Estrada voters formed two overlapping sets. Velarde, in other words, was preaching to the converted. In contrast (or as proof), El Shaddai's support for Francisco Tatad's vice presidential bid that same year landed Tatad, who did not have the sympathy of Estrada's supporters, exactly nowhere.

Villanueva has not figured in any of the surveys—not because he doesn't rate (to borrow a term from the TV industry) but because he had not been considered a prospective candidate. His declaration this month that he will contest the presidency may change all that. If he continues, it is likely that he will, like Ross Perot in the 1992 US presidential election and Ralph Nader in 2000, play a spoiler's role, siphoning off votes from the incumbent or the incumbent's choice. If he withdraws from the race, he would leave the President wounded, showing her rivals exactly where she is vulnerable.

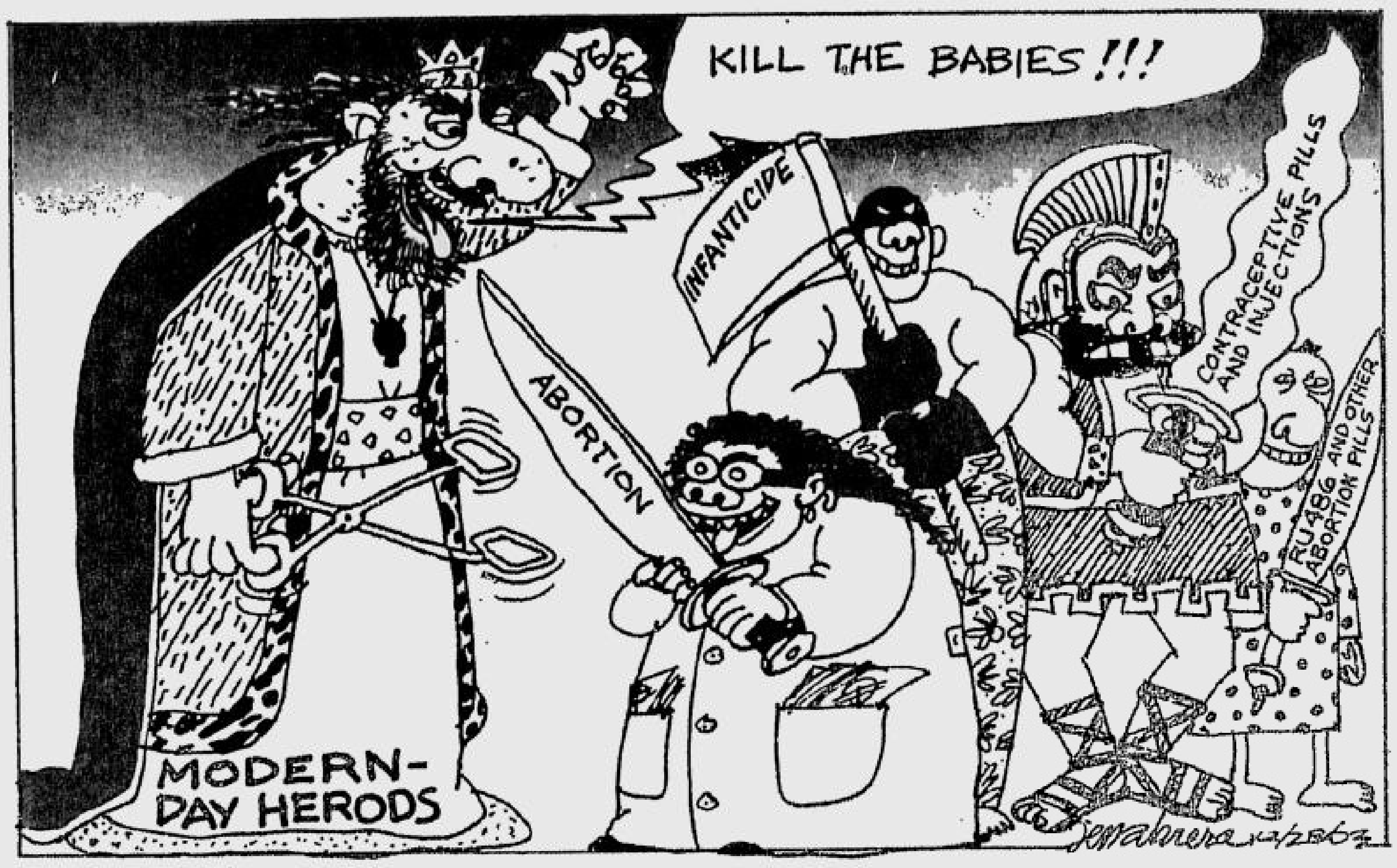
But it would be a disservice to Villanueva, and to the larger public interest, to consider his bid only for its impact on Ms Macapagal's chances. His candidacy must be understood on its own merits, and as an expression of a venerable political tradition.

Villanueva is running on a platform of change and recovery (in themselves, the planks in his platform are already incumbent-unfriendly). "What we need is the change and transformation of our nation. I've been traveling for 20 years and I've seen how our country became quite pitiful," he told reporters. He blamed "traditional politics" in part for the state of the nation, and summarized his reason for running thus: "the restoration of morality in government and the country."

Talk of morality in government will set some people's teeth on edge; some of them will find it hopelessly naïve, while others will bristle at yet another attempt to blur the line between church and state. But with the exception of Estrada, who knows there are limits to the roles an actor can play, all our presidents, even the dictator Ferdinand Marcos through his Sto. Niño devotee of a First Lady, have played the morality card. The difference—more real than apparent, we trust—is that Villanueva is the leader of a genuine spiritual movement.

And the notion that affairs of state will be turned into a subset of religion is based on a misunderstanding of the doctrine. It prevents the establishment of a state religion and respects the individual freedom to worship one's own God; it does not disqualify a candidate merely because he happens to be a believer. As Marcos learned too late, the moral covers more ground than the political.

This much is clear: Villanueva's candidacy belongs to the tradition of faith-based politics, a commitment to social action nourished on spiritual sources. Others have gone before him, Raul Manglapus being the most prominent. Whether he succeeds in May or not, others will follow.



Innocents' Day

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TODAY is Innocents' Day, commemorating that day more than 2,000 years ago when King Herod ordered the slaughter of male infants in his realm for fear of the prophecy that one of them would depose him from his throne. The new-born Jesus escaped that cruel decree because Joseph and Mary had taken him to Egypt, outside of the despot's power, in obedience to the bidding of an angel.

That story has lost much of its spiritual value in this modern world, probably because we have become more practical, if not, regrettably, less reverent. In fact, the day is now regarded as an excuse for practical jokes to be played upon the "innocents," who are too ready to accept things at face value without suspicion of deception or mischief.

The usual trick is for the plotter to approach a close friend with a tale of woe, like being short of funds to discharge an urgent obligation. Complying with the inescapable duty is practically a matter of life and death, and so he is asking his friend to help him with his desperate need. Would he trust him with a loan that will be paid within a week? The size of the loan will depend upon the finances of the victim or the ruthlessness of the predator.

Where the unsuspecting target, out of sympathy for the pleader, delivers the requested amount, then will the guffaws follow, usually in the presence of others in on the trick, who will boisterously inform him that he has been duped on Innocents' Day. Surprised for a minute or so, the victim will accept the joke good-naturedly and share like a good sport in the spirit of good clean fun.

The loan will, of course, be forfeited because the victim was too trusting like the innocent babies who were massacred by Herod. The money will usually be spent for a blow-out for the gang, with the prey as involuntary host, who will remember his expensive experience to play the role of the deceiver when Innocents' Day comes around next year.

The jocularity of the day has made many of us forget that many of us are innocents throughout the year and not as victims of a mere prank among well-meaning friends. Most of the time, the deception is serious, and so are the consequences. We are victimized by ill-intentioned persons who take advantage of our naiveté for their own selfish advantage. This is usually committed by those in power, from those occupying high offices to the policeman on the beat and even the metro aides.

Thus, executives enter into public contracts without bidding for a certain percentage of the cut for their private fortunes; legislators from Congress to the local sanggunian pass measures and grant franchises for sale to scheming businessmen; the judiciary gets into the act with corrupt judges absolving criminals and favoring losing parties for under-the-table consideration; tax collectors look the other way to exempt crooked taxpayers for an agreed fee; traffic cops and metro aides exact daily *tong* from jeepney drivers and higher toll from cargo trucks at checkpoints; public utilities demand higher rates for essential public services; oil companies periodically raise their prices for stock earlier bought at lower cost; universities and colleges increase their tuition and other fees and deny enrollment to those whose parents complain: and other venal cases where the public in general is victimized by modern-day Herods who have no compunction in advancing their private advantage to the prejudice of the general welfare.

We are the innocents, and we are so every day of the year and not only on Innocents' Day. The grafters have seen to that, corrupting everything they touch with their unkempt hands that never tire to grasp unholy loot from the unwary or unwilling public. Graft and corruption have infected every level of our society and become a way of life for our hapless people. The old values have disappeared. Honesty is the best policy has been replaced by the more cynical view that he who does not help himself is a fool. These are the moral depths to which many Filipinos have sunk from the admirable but vanished virtues of the honorable past.

Fortunately, the crooks constitute only a small minority of our population, at least so far. The rest, and there are many more millions of them, are upright, God-fearing citizens who value rectitude and sincerity in their dealings with others. These are the men and women who may yet redeem the nation from the squalor of the present and usher in a new spirit of probity and square dealing, of trust in the good faith of others and the integrity of public office. These are the valiant majority that may yet save our country from the deviltry that is preying upon us as the innocents of the current age.

Family matters

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about two high school classmates who bumped into each other during the holidays. After the initial animated how-have-you-been's, they started talking about their lives and their families, particularly about their husbands. With sadness, the first one said that her husband *"ay sumakabilang buhay na"* (went to the next life already). The second one, with more sadness, said that her husband *"ay sumakabilang bahay na"* (went to the next house already)!

* * *

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. The Gospel today (Lk. 2:41-52) speaks about the love of Jesus and Mary and Joseph for each other. The Gospel also speaks about a basic ingredient needed by every family: respect for one another. Without respect, there can be no true love in the family. If you do not love each other, do you at least respect one another in your family? There are parents who think they own their children. In the name of love, they even run their children's lives.

Parents, Jesus reminds you today that your children are God's more than they are yours, and that God loves them more than you can love them. If your children can't find a place in the sun, maybe it's because they keep sitting in the shade of your family tree.

* * *

Last November, an elderly woman came to my office with much sadness. She had been "abandoned" by her only daughter. She had no place to go, and she had no one in this world. Somehow, through the help of friends, we were able to put her in a room where she could stay, at least, for the meantime. It was such a sad and painful story, and I thought that was that.

But on Dec. 24, her "prodigal daughter" came over to tell me the good news that she and her mother had been reunited. She had asked for forgiveness and she promised that she would never again leave her aging mother. She left because she needed to have space from her domineering and sometimes mean mother. It was a painful phase for both of them, but now, they are together again, with their lessons learned, more resolved to stick it out with one another. It was a beautiful Christmas moment.

* * *

On a personal note, our family had a beautiful Christmas moment when we celebrated the Noche Buena with all of us present. For the past four years, our youngest sister, Bing, a Montessori teacher, had to stay put in the United States till she got her green card. Mama urged us all to pray that Bing would be home for Christmas this year. Her faith was unwavering. She was confident that our prayers would be answered. She told us, as she often did in the past, to pray to our departed relatives for their intercession. Guess what? Bing received her notice of interview on June 23, the death anniversary of our Papa, and she was given the green card on Dec. 18, the birthday of Papa. Prayer works, family matters!

* * *

Again we affirm: "The family that prays together, stays together." There is no such thing as a perfect family or a perfect relationship, but if God is present, somehow the ties are never broken. The ties may be weakened, but never severed. So, we all must hold on to God and to one another. Somebody put it beautifully: If you don't want your family to alter, you must go back to your family altar.

* * *

There is a lot of wisdom and grace in being obedient to one's parents. Even Jesus was obedient to Joseph and Mary. Those who disobey and make their parents sad, have a lot of burdens in their lives. That's because of the Fourth Commandment: to honor one's parents carries with it a promise, a blessing in this life. It is never too late to make our parents happy, whether they are already gone, or are still alive. Our greatest gift to them is that we are close to God, close to one another, and that, even when they are already gone, we will be okay, we will continue to love one another. Then they will have, indeed, left behind good assets in this world in us, their children.

Wish you had more and had received more, especially at Christmas? Learn from the text message about a little boy who was asked if he got all he wanted this Christmas. His response was: "No, but then, it is His birthday, not mine, right?"

Right! When will you stop wishing to have more? When will you stop receiving and start giving?

We are one human family with God as our Father. For those who think they are better than the rest because of their color, race, creed or culture, listen to this message of a black man from Texas: "When I born, I black. When I grow up, I black. When I sick, I black. And when I die, I black. You white folks, when you born, you pink. When you grow up, you white. When you go in sun, you red. When you scared, you yellow. When you sick, you green. When you bruised, you purple. And when you die, you gray. So who you calling colored?"

May the new year be a better year for all of us, in all aspects, in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Moment with the Lord:
Lord, remind me that family matters do matter. Amen.

Counting your blessings

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TODAY we shall refrain from mentioning politics or politicians. There is just too much of both in the newspapers, radio and television. What we need is a respite from all the posturings and promises that only make us more cynical about the future.

As another year is coming to a close, it is best to remember our blessings and to thank the Almighty for getting us through the year in relatively good shape. When we think about it, even as the peso continues to inch up closer to P56 to the dollar, and chicken has now become an endangered species in our markets, we still have a few things to be grateful for.

Others may feel differently, but for me, the traffic situation has improved a lot. The U-turns implemented by Bayani Fernando have done wonders to keep vehicles moving, and I hope we don't lose him in the months to come because Metro Manila is where he is badly needed. The vice presidency would be a waste of his time, his talents and his energies, and a total loss for the capital region. Earlier I said that we would refrain from talking about politicians. Actually, I don't think of Fernando as a politician but as someone who is willing to experiment in an attempt to improve the everyday lives of people and who is willing to face down an unruly, lawless and noisy minority for the good and benefit of most of the community. He has also shown enough good sense to back down if proven wrong on his test runs, which is probably why there has been little resistance to reforms and changes initiated by his agency.

* * *

After reading the special report of Juan Sarmiento Jr. on how hundreds of men and women sympathetic to the Communist movement were tortured and killed by party members on suspicion of being "deep penetration agents" of the military, I was reminded of my own nephew who, almost 10 years ago, left his studies at the University of the Philippines to join the movement. I had always thought of him as perfect material for the cadet corps at the Philippine Military Academy. He was tall, athletic, and had good presence and would have been a strong candidate for first captain of the corps of cadets. He was also good-looking, and the girls would have been swooning all over him. But one day, he just disappeared from classes, and after a while, word came down through the grapevine that he was "in the mountains."

Two months ago, he appeared at one of the family reunions with his pregnant wife, also a member of the movement. He had decided to finally "come down," go back to school and catch up with the rest of his life. He had given 10 years to the movement.

We don't talk very much and I'm not too sure just what changed his mind. But we are thankful that he is back. A month ago, his wife gave birth to a handsome baby boy.

* * *

For more than 25 years, we have always spent Christmas, either lunch or dinnertime, with the Parayno and Malig families. Willy Parayno and Romy Malig started out with me at the Bureau of Customs in 1977. And through the years, we have managed to keep in touch every month or during the holidays. Bing Alano is usually with us, but these days he is in the United States visiting the family. Our children are all grown up, some with families of their own, making us grandparents.

As everyone knows, Willy P. is the hardworking BIR commissioner, struggling to keep the deficit down while Romy M. is president of Lorenzo Shipping Corp. We are grateful for their friendship and their company.

* * *

More than anything else, our children Miguel, Francisco and Carmela, and the grandchildren, Christine, Nicole and Gisele, are our greatest blessing. I am reminded of the prose of Khalil Gibran, a Lebanese-American poet, who expressed in beautiful lines the relationship between parents and children, particularly the roles each of them plays in life:

Your children are not your children
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself
They come through you but not from you
And though they are with you
yet they belong not to you
You may give them your love but not your thoughts
For they have their own thoughts
You may house their bodies but not their souls
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams
You may strive to be like them
But seek not to make them like you
For life goes not backward
nor tarries with yesterday
You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth
The Archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might
That His arrow may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness
For even as He loves the arrow that flies
So He loves also the bow that is stable.

Nothing comes even remotely close to the pride and happiness they have given us over the years. They are now living lives of their own and one can only hope that the arrow flies swift and far, unerring in its accuracy as it moves toward the target set by the Great Archer above.

The last year of my 40s

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'LL be entering the last year of my 40s in about two weeks, but instead of filling me with dread, I'm kind of looking forward to the coming year, a respite before I enter my respectable and sedate 50s (as if).

I want to fill this last year of my 40s with things I might no longer be able to do as a certified "matron." I've noticed that middle age has increasingly been measured by a flexible ruler, a timeline that shifts with every trend and shift in fashion, and as the baby boomers, the generation that invented the term "teenager," cross more and more age barriers. At 40 or more years, the generation of my parents was considered firmly ensconced in middle age, engaged in such middle-aged pursuits as weekly mahjong games and poker sessions, and telling us constantly to turn down the volume on our radios as the music was hurting their ears. But these days, people in their 40s and 50s and even 60s are still out there competing with athletes who are decades younger, filling up dance floors and barely breaking a sweat while their younger partners gasp and beg for air, and driving to work while their car radios blare loud, ear-shattering and pulsing rock.

The boundaries are blurring, but for women 50 years is a definite threshold. I'm not about to take to my bed, wear a shawl and there wait out the rest of my days. Far from it. But 50-year-old women, especially those with children, are expected to exhibit some dignity, at least, or some decorum. So I have just one year to do everything I've always wanted to do that could be considered risqué and out of line, embarrassing and reckless. "When I grow old, I'll wear purple," is the title of a book on women and aging. Well, I've been wearing purple for years, and the things I have in mind for the last year of my 40s go far beyond wearing loud colors or laughing out loud.

* * *

ON THE LAST year of my 40s, I want to lose 20 pounds. Okay, that's something I've been writing down every New Year, for the last 20 years, and all I ended up doing was put on 20 more pounds. But this is a wish list, right, and after 50, there won't be much point. So let me be and leave me to my illusions!

In the coming year, I want to be a hedonist without guilt. Thanks to my friend Dr. Cecile Llave, who promised to treat me to a massage at The Spa even while we were still in Sydney for a conference and made good on that promise, I've become a spa addict. Doctora Cecile and I had the de luxe massage package, which includes a dip in the jacuzzi and confinement in two kinds of saunas (steam heat and dry heat) before the relaxing Swedish massage. To reduce the stress of pre-anniversary preparations some weeks later, I tried a promo package that included a honey body polish and an oxygen facial. The first included a sea salt scrub for exfoliation, then, after a shower, having a mix of almond powder, buttermilk and honey salved all over my body after which I was wrapped up like a cake for baking (or sweating). After 10 minutes, the wrapping was peeled off and I was asked to soak in a tub. Just when I thought I was done, the attendant then had me lie back on the bed as lavender-scented lotion was rubbed all over me. I left The Spa (at Acropolis) with skin glowing from all that massage and treatment application and feeling as fresh and sweet-smelling as a baby after a bath. If, as the saying goes, life goes full circle so that one looks (and acts) more and more like an infant as one ages, then that's the way I want to go!

* * *

ON THE LAST year of my 40s I want to be able to sing and dance in public, without having to glance from time to time at my children to see if they haven't yet crawled away in embarrassment. I want to be able to do the "*otso-otso*" properly, and to dance to the "Spageti Song" like any self-respecting Sex Bomb dancer. But then, maybe I'd have to lose 20 (or more) pounds first before doing this.

I want to be able to watch Filipino films, especially the sappy romantic "*kilig*" ones without having to bribe and threaten my daughter, or promise to watch silly action movies with the hubby in exchange.

As a voter, I want to be able to vote for the next president of this country next May with firm conviction and earnest hope that things will get better. Not this sense of having to settle for "the least of all evils" among the people seeking my vote, this sense of having to make an unhappy choice just to fulfill my obligation. I want to vote for someone I truly believe in, someone who's captured my imagination and my heart, someone who holds out real hope and the possibility of change. No such person yet on the horizon.

* * *

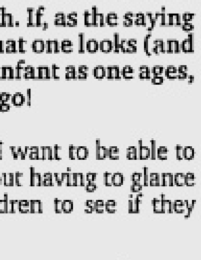
I WANT to eat pastries, sweets and chocolates without guilt or a scolding from my endocrinologist. I want to be able to slather bread with butter in the morning without mentally counting the calories or calculating cholesterol levels. I want to eat out with my girlfriends without having to pretend that appetizers and salad are enough to fortify me.

On the last year of my 40s, I want to come to terms with growing old—or older. I want to accept the sorry sight of facial lines and age spots in the mirror early in the morning without panicking and reaching for the moisturizer and concealer. I want to stop wincing when I see pictures of stunning and stunningly slim models, or whenever I catch sight of Vilma Santos who has no right to look the way she does when she's a year older than me.

Finally, on the last year of my 40s, I want to look forward to my 50s, and believe that I have not left behind the best years of my life but rather, am just embarking on them, moving on to bluer skies and a brighter horizon.

The mass media in a democracy

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

THE MASS media devoted considerable attention to the recent filing by obscure individuals of their certificates of candidacy for the presidency. The news accounts mocked their improbable claims and outlandish statements and provided the public all the reasons to label them nuisance candidates.

Though the form used was one of dismissive derision, such reportage is nonetheless consistent with the mass media's critical role in a democracy. That role has to do with supplying the conditions for rational political debate that will help citizens form solid opinions and make informed choices.

I submit this is a role the media in our society have not played consistently and effectively. They have not clarified the concrete issues facing the nation. They have not given the public the background information they need to form educated arguments on these issues. They have not raised the questions that candidates must answer if they are to be regarded as serious contenders for public office.

When the media fail in this role, democracy is indeed reduced to a popularity contest. Individuals are recruited to leadership positions merely on the basis of their mass appeal, itself a media creation, rather than on their record of service to the country or known stand on basic issues. They are prompted to set aside their own anxieties over their lack of preparedness by vague visions of a government based solely on charisma and inspiration. Voters are not challenged to clarify and defend the reasons for their preferences. They are kept blind to the fatal consequences of their instinctive choices.

There was a time when celebrities and personalities who had made their mark in other fields would not permit themselves to be easily drawn into politics. The responsibilities of public office intimidated them, but, more than this, the political parties in charge of leadership recruitment took the requirements of public service seriously. They demanded not just a pleasing face or an easily recalled name, but solid qualifications.

All this has changed in the age of mass communication. Exposed to the light of public scrutiny, the traditional governing classes no longer seem awesome nor their positions unreachable. Their flaws and failings have also become more visible. Everyone now thinks he or she can be president or senator. Released from the grip of power blocs that traditionally commanded votes, voters now confidently assert their right to choose their leaders. The mass media have surely given them their heroes but, unfortunately, not the civic maturation necessary to enable them to participate equally and freely in a constitutional democracy.

A system like constitutional democracy reserves to the public sphere the political functions of setting goals, identifying the means for achieving these goals, and mobilizing the community toward their attainment through consensus-formation. The framework within which these functions are to be performed is the public debate, where the only force that is accepted is the force of the better argument. In a rational democracy, popularity must be earned on the basis of the strength of one's vision and arguments, rather than on one's pre-political qualities.

I do not object to the entry of mass media celebrities into the field of politics, and neither do I think they are necessarily inferior to professional politicians. They have as much right as lawyers, soldiers, preachers, and relatives of politicians to seek public office. But they should not rely solely on the advantage of their pre-political popularity to win public consent. They should participate in the ongoing public debate and open themselves to the perils of public ridicule as well as to the challenges of superior insight and argumentation. All this is, however, possible only if a critical process is set in motion by the mass media—the same mass media that have manipulated and controlled public discourse. What are the chances of this happening?

I believe the mass media situation in our country is sufficiently plural to allow the kind of rational contestation needed to produce a valid social consensus. What is needed is a commitment on the part of the media owners to supply the basic elements for a public forum that will enable the Filipino nation to achieve a self-understanding of its problems and create a powerful will to solve these. A forum like this will not only weed out pretenders and charlatans, it will also help voters re-examine their own perceptions and biases.

Only if the mass media are prepared to play an activist role like this would it be possible for us to avoid the pitfalls of a deeply flawed democracy. The key is the attainment of public consensus through open rational argumentation. Without public debate on the crucial issues facing the national community, the democratic idea of one-person one-vote is empty. We may as well make do with surveys rather than hold expensive elections.

The philosopher Habermas distinguished between a plebiscitary democracy that is content with counting heads, and a discursive democracy that is concerned with promoting dialogue and achieving consensus. The distinction is a reminder that the purpose of an election is not just to choose leaders; it is also, more importantly, to provide citizens an opportunity to review their collective goals and renew their commitment to the nation.

May 2004 signify a new beginning for our country!

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

Bittersweet remembrance

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN FERNANDO, La Union—What is so important that you are willing to travel almost a day by air and land just to be able to attend it? Could anything be that compelling?

It could be a death in the family or a loved one. A golden anniversary. The wedding of your best friend. A court case involving a ton of money.

In my case, it was none of the above. It was an invitation to a centennial—100 years of my old high school, which was born in December 1903, older than the University of the Philippines 200 miles away, where I would eventually go to college.

You come running because it's like being jolted. You can only attend a centennial once in your lifetime, perhaps not even.

Because the semester has not ended yet in Hawaii, and I have a bundle of papers to correct, I was hesitant. And because it's the Christmas season, air fares are sky high and the comfortable, non-stop flights are already taken. It's the worst time to travel.

I ended up taking a 16-hour flight from Hawaii, including six hours on stopovers, and another six hours by car from Manila to my old hometown, now the City of San Fernando, La Union. That's how important a centennial of the major institution that shaped your young life can be.

I'm glad I came because just attending the celebrations has given me a richer perspective of this stage in my life that I have always taken for granted. A rare picture obtained by Virgilio Bautista of Class '53 from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. shows an American woman in a carriage surrounded by a group of girls taken on the high school grounds in 1903, possibly the first photo taken of the freshman class. Obviously, the American teacher was one of the first Thomasites sent to the Philippines after it was annexed by the United States in 1898. There was no indication of who she was and who the members of the first class were. The other curious thought articulated by Virgilio was, were there any boys in this first class?

It got me thinking about how much we missed learning about the history of our own school during the American colonial period. We had courses in Philippine and American history all through high school but hardly any information about how the public school system was established in the early 1900s.

I recall my mother saying in those early years, once you finished the equivalent of seventh grade under the "*kartilla*" system introduced by the Spanish, you could already teach or go to college. She and my father had gone through this system and I understood that they skipped high school and went straight to Manila. She took nursing at the Philippine General Hospital, which would later become part of UP, and my father took law at the Liceo de Manila. They would get married eventually and return to San Fernando to raise a family of eight, with me coming at the tail end.

One of my father's cousins had become acting principal of the La Union High School in the 1930s. This was a cause for celebration because the Filipinization of the public schools was under way. Fewer and fewer Thomasites were coming as principals and teachers and more and more Filipinos were being trained to take on leadership positions. A prominent La Union citizen, Camilo Osias, would eventually become Philippine resident commissioner in the United States and first Filipino superintendent of schools. He would become famous not only in politics but also as the author of the "Osias Reader," which would be used as instructional material in the public schools. It was a book of prose and poetry, our first exposure to Philippine literature in English. We had to read the "Osias Reader" by heart.

Because the high school was the only game in town in its early stages, just everyone in the province was a public school product. Several generations of my older siblings and relatives attended the high school. It became a family tradition.

My whole world as the youngest in the family line was shaped mostly by their experiences and stories as students of the high school. I would later say that I was born an "instant adult" because I was surrounded by adults, either siblings or extended family members, who would dote on me because I was the only child around. In turn I was so awed by the friends and classmates of my brothers and sisters, who would come around the house to "talk story." I did everybody's errands. I would identify people in the community in terms of the years they attended the high school: "You were the classmate of my eldest sister in high school," or "You went to school with my brother."

When it came time for me to attend the school, it was somehow the end of an era. I had no younger brother or sister to pass on the mantle. Most of my nieces and nephews would later attend private schools that were giving the only public high school in town great competition. Meanwhile, public school education began to decline as more and more state colleges or universities were being established mainly for political reasons. Government resources were being spread out too thinly. My old high school became a "national" institution. But it has lost much of its mystique, as with everything else that passes with time.

It is a bit painful to see many of the facilities we had used in our youth deteriorating, and it is a challenge to the alumni to help revive the old atmosphere. I tried to look for my garden plot that we were asked to "cultivate" as part of our "extracurricular" activities in the '50s. It was no longer there, of course.

So, as I sit here on the old hallowed grounds several decades later, contemplating my mortality while looking at the icon of my youth, I smile at those bittersweet years at the high school which prepared me for a more rigorous routine at UP and in later life.

In our senior year, the school administration decided to go "co-ed," ending three years of "segregation," which we girls had endured from first to junior years. We girls had always been annoyed to be relegated to Section 2. During our senior year, we had our sweet revenge, and proved to everybody that we were equally deserving to be in Section 1.

I would like to end with a note on our distinguished and talented alumni. Manuel Arguilla, one of the early Filipino writers in English of "How My Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife" fame, was a member of Class 1929. The setting of many of his stories was his hometown of Bauang. So was Consorcio Borje, not as well-known, but equally gifted as a short story writer. Perhaps the most famous alumnus in the literary field was Alejandrino Hufana, poet-painter and writer, who was in Class 1948.

There are many more distinguished alumni of our school, but space limitations prevent me from mentioning them all. We will no longer be around in the next centennial, but this institution of our early education will still be there because it has stood the test of time and has become part of everybody's "unconscious." It will live on.

Belinda Aquino is based at the University of Hawaii as professor of political science and director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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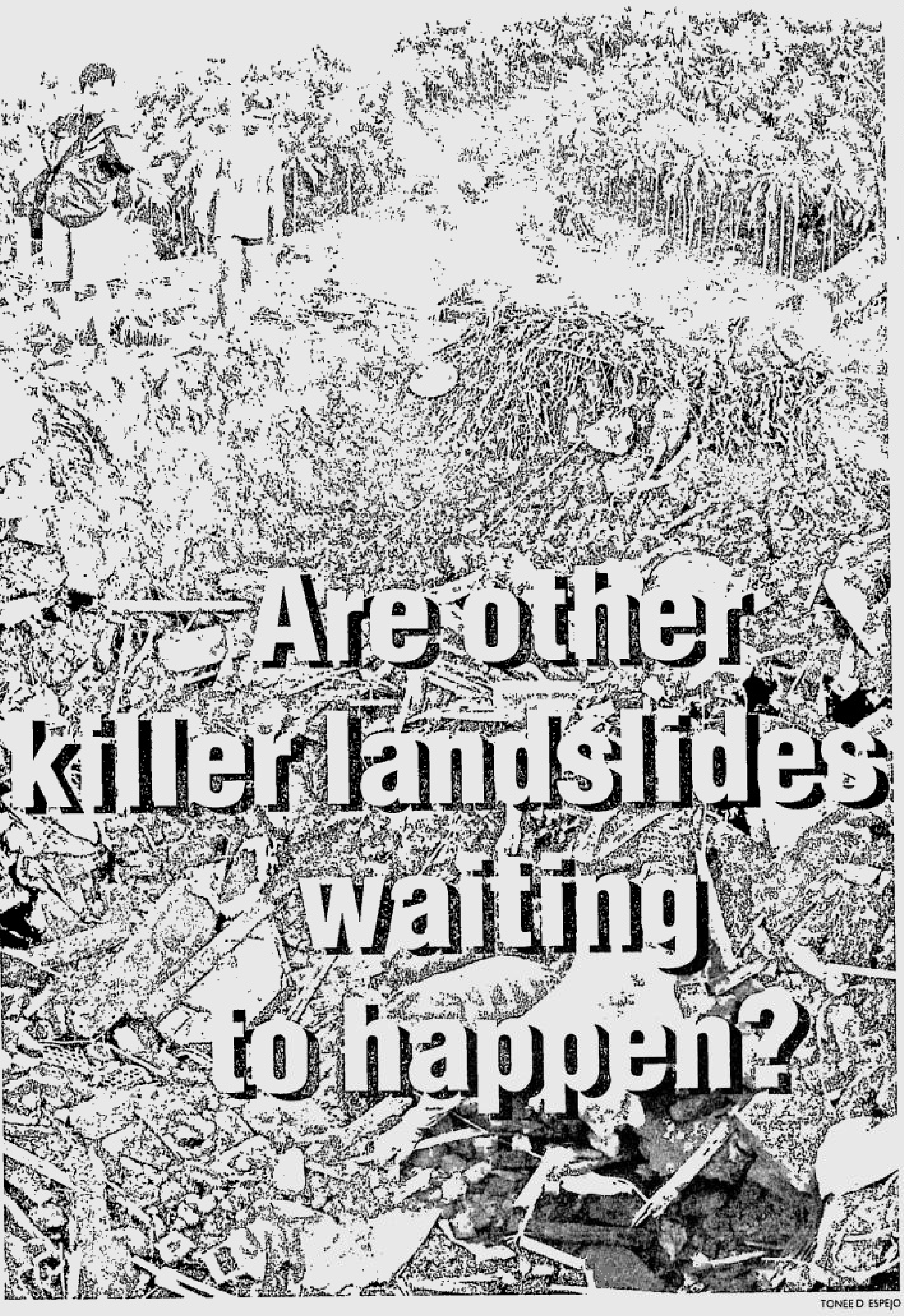
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Are other killer landslides waiting to happen?



TONEE D ESPEJO

BECAUSE it is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt, the Philippines is one of the countries most prone to natural disasters. Earthquakes regularly hit the country. Every year some 20 to 25 typhoons visit it, causing floods and landslides.

But sometimes, landslides do happen even without a typhoon. This was illustrated by the landslides that hit Southern Leyte, particularly Panaon Island, and northeastern Mindanao last week. As of Dec. 26, the death toll from the landslides and flooding rose to at least 193. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources says no one should be blamed for the tragedy. It attributes the calamity to record rainfall, conversion of Panaon's forests into farms, mostly planted to coconuts, and the fractured mountains of the island. The DENR says illegal logging was not the culprit, but admits that trees with deep roots could have prevented the mudslides.

Because of deforestation and the growing number of people living in upland communities, many areas in the country are vulnerable to landslides. About 95 percent of the forests that stood at the turn of the century have been logged, leaving the country with barely 15 percent forest cover. Continued mining also makes upland communities vulnerable to landslides.

Other killer landslides are waiting to happen unless people leave vulnerable upland communities, plant trees and protect the environment.

Samareños have learned their lesson

By Charo Nabong-Cabardo
Former president, Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation

The tragedy that happened in Southern Leyte brings to mind the disaster that hit Samar 15 years ago. In January 1989, continuous rains caused flash floods in the towns of Dolores, Oras and Borongan in Eastern Samar, and in the towns of Catarman, Catubig, Laoang and Las Navas in Northern Samar. The flash floods and landslides buried villages, killed 79 people, displaced more than 60,000 families and destroyed crops worth more than P100 million.

In a barangay along the Dolores river, a farmer recalled that the waters suddenly rose. There was barely enough time to bring the women and children to higher ground. There was no second trip to bring the carabaos to safety. The towns of Catarman and Catubig were inundated for several days. Interior barangays were isolated for weeks.

The disaster triggered calls for an end to logging. At the time of the flooding, 15 logging concessions were operating in the three provinces of Samar island, the biggest of which was former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's San Jose Timber. Samareños blamed the disaster on the logging operations. In response, then Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran issued a logging moratorium, which suspended all logging operations from February to May.

Hunger

In June, the people were still reeling from the disaster. Hunger broke out in the interior barangays in Northern and Eastern Samar. Farmers wore faces of despair as they stared at their farmlands blanketed in a meter-deep silt. Young men and women left their homelands for the cities in search of livelihood. Samar island was in a state of agony. The only option for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was to extend the logging moratorium indefinitely. And the moratorium is still in effect.

At the time of the disaster, Samar island had been stripped of more than half a million hectares of forests. The deforestation rate was 52,000 hectares a year or one hectare every 10 minutes. A SPOT satellite photograph of Samar's forests showed in 1987 that its forest cover had been reduced to 33 percent or a total of 449,000 hectares.

The disaster served as a wake-up call for Samareños. NGOs and local government units doggedly persevered in protecting the remaining rainforests. In 1994, NGOs and LGUs campaigned to stop the road construction that would have cut across one of its old growth forests. In 1995, we petitioned President Fidel V. Ramos to declare the remaining forests in the three provinces of Samar island a Forest Reserve. "…the effects of deforestation are still being felt by the people of Samar despite the imposition by government of a logging moratorium for the past five years …" Fortunately for us, President Ramos acted favorably. In the same year, the NGOs endorsed to DENR a proposal to conserve the bio-diversity of Samar island and DENR worked hard to have it funded by the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility.

Protected area

In 2001, the DENR launched the Samar Island Biodiversity Project and started work to conserve the rich biodiversity of the island. This year, in a historic moment, the Church, the LGUs, civil society and various Samareños from all over the island again took the road to Catbalogan, capital town of Samar, to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare the remaining forests a protected area and to express their opposition to plans for mining activities on the island. Fortunately, Ms Macapagal acted favorably and declared 330,300 hectares of forests lands on the island a protected area.

This year's disasters in Leyte and Surigao are but two of a series of disasters that have struck our country. In the past decade, we have painfully witnessed disaster after disaster, tragedy after tragedy in many parts of our country. If we look deep into them, these disasters were bound to happen. The stories are the same … land stripped of forest cover by logging, by mining operations, by land conversions … heavy rains, flash floods, landslides … tragedy …

When will we ever learn? Fortunately, the agony brought about by the floods in 1989 was heavily imprinted on the minds of the Samareño people. They have persevered in protecting the environment against threats from logging and mining.

Protect forests, change lifestyle

By Anabelle F. Plantilla
Executive Director, Haribon Foundation

In the last two years, no mention of the word "environment" and any related concern have been contained in the President's State of the Nation Address. This shows that the environment is clearly not a priority of the highest office of the nation.

There may be several reasons for this but it can be certainly pointed out that an apparent lack of awareness and knowledge on biodiversity priorities has contributed to this. Day in and day out, we are bombarded with information regarding the state of our economy and how this affects our lives but there is no realization that any economic gain made from the natural resource base of our country is based on and will depend on the presence of healthy ecosystems. For example, fisheries and agricultural production, exports and ecotourism all rely on a very sound environment. Once destroyed, all related activities will cease to be productive.

We all have a role to play in making sure that our environment stays healthy and that we reap its bounty.

Environmentalism or biodiversity (plants and animals) conservation should not be seen as an esoteric issue but as a concern, which is very much connected to our daily lives. For example, we take for granted that water, which we need to survive, comes from the forest. It is stored by the root system of trees and is released through springs. Water is used for agricultural (irrigation), industrial and domestic (drinking, bathing, cooking) purposes. The food that we eat also comes from the forest or from the marine waters and so do the medicines that we take. So no one can say that biodiversity conservation is just an issue for environmentalists. The country's biodiversity is our nation's natural heritage. Therefore, it must be the responsibility of every Filipino. The involvement of ordinary individuals and communities is critical in sustaining any national or local level concern for biodiversity conservation.

Recycling

How do we do that? We can all examine our lifestyles and see how we can curb them. At the very least, we should practice recycling and try to avoid consumer products with too much packaging as these are also made from natural resources. Let us conserve water and electricity which are products of our forests. By doing these, we lessen the pressure on our natural resources. At the same time, we should all be vigilant and actively advocate the implementation of environmental laws. And this we should insist on our elected and appointed leaders. Policies that shape the nation and public opinion and pressure are created in the urban centers, thus, it is important that we all be part of a constituency for biodiversity conservation.

Haribon has identified 117 important bio-diversity areas, which should be actually protected and not just protected on paper. A sincere effort from government is the allocation of ample budgets for these areas for effective management to take place. Current efforts on forest conservation among immediate stakeholders like the local governments and communities, civic and religious organizations, NGOs and people's organizations and even the academe should be promoted and replicated. At the same time, government should reexamine the policies that have an impact on the remaining natural forests. The government should seriously consider weighing short-term financial gains from extractive industries like mining vis-á-vis long-term economic and ecological benefits, which can be derived from the protection of natural ecosystems.

Yes, if we do not make the right choices, now, there will be other similar tragedies like the most recent one in Leyte.

Major landslides since 1991

Nov. 5, 1991. **Ormoc**, Southern Leyte. A devastating flood and landslide brought on by typhoon "Uring" killed more than 5,000 people, many of them women and children. More than 4,000 were never found. Walls of mud and water roared down the mountains, washing away shanty settlements along the coast, sweeping people into the sea and burying others.

Sept. 6, 1995. **Lake Maughan**, Mt. Parker. The outlet of Lake Maughan, some 3,000 feet above sea level on the crater of Mt. Parker, gives in. Waters raged through several towns of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao, killing 185. A total of 136 remained missing.

Oct. 21, 1998. **Catanduanes.** A mudslide at the height of typhoon "Loleng" killed 50 people in Barangay Kilikilihan in San Miguel and 6 others in Caramoran town.

Aug. 3, 1999. **Cherry Hills Subdivision** in Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City. Amid heavy rains, a cliff collapsed and loosened earth and mud, destroying 378 houses and killing 58 people.

July 10, 2000. **Payatas**, Quezon City. Following a week of heavy rains brought on by typhoons "Ditang" and "Edeng," the eastern side of the Payatas dumpsite collapsed, burying some 500 shanties and leaving more than 217 people dead. At least 73 victims were still missing and believed to be still buried under the mountain of garbage.

Nov. 7, 2001. **Mahinog, Camiguin.** Typhoon "Nanang" brought death and destruction to Camiguin. At least 197 people and hundreds of farm animals died when mud and boulders buried Sitio Zamora in Barangay Hubangon in Mahinog town.

(Compiled by Rey Leyesa, PDI Research)

Policy reforms and actions needed

By Elisea (Bebet) G. Gozun
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Many people have correctly pointed to deforestation as the root cause of the landslides and floods on Panaon Island in Southern Leyte.

However, in this particular case, illegal logging is not the main cause of deforestation. The loss of forest cover on the island has been due largely to the legal cutting of trees as a result of the reclassification of the land from forest lands to alienable and disposable (A&D) lands and the subsequent change in the use of the same land to agriculture, mostly to coconut plantation. The trees were cut from private lands, not from public or forestlands. This is not to say that there was absolutely no illegal logging in the area.

As early as 1928, much of the area had already been converted to alienable and disposable lands, long before the passage of the Forestry Code in 1975. Thus, even areas with slopes of than 18 percent were also converted from forest to A&D, which we confirmed when the President and some members of the Cabinet flew over the area on Dec. 23. Technical knowledge (developed after 1928) now tells us that lands, which have slopes of more than 18 percent are prone to heavy soil erosion and should therefore be maintained as forest land. The National Mapping and Resource Information authority estimates that about 60 percent of Panaon's land area of 25,000 hectares falls at 18 percent slope and higher.

Fractured

Compounding the land conversion are certain natural and geologic factors. Panaon Island is traversed by some of the branches of the Philippine Fault. As a consequence of the Fault and its branches, the rocks here are badly broken or fractured. Under these geologic conditions, when rainfall occurs, water inevitably seeps into these fractures.

For the past 30 years, the average rainfall in Southern Leyte for December is about 178 mm per day. Continuous rains on Dec. 17 to 20 reached 699 mm. In just three days, the average monthly rainfall was exceeded by as much as four times! This sudden deluge of water was sufficiently strong to initiate the slides and flooding.

Considering the above facts, no single agency or person can be blamed. Clearly the heavy rains served as the trigger.

This highlights the very important ecological function, which trees serve. They absorb water and recharge our aquifer. And, they also hold the soil.

So while it is true that none of us can predict the weather accurately, we can certainly do something to lessen the risk of the tragedies such as this on Panaon Island and Ormoc from occurring again. Lessen, not prevent, since excessive rainfall even in a forested area may still lead to flooding and landslides. We need to protect our remaining forests and rehabilitate the denuded ones.

With more than three million hectares needing rehabilitation, government cannot depend on its resources alone. We thus actively encourage stakeholders to get involved through various programs such as the Adopt a Mountain, community-based forest management, tree farming and industrial tree plantations. Instead of just planting for a day, areas needing rehabilitation are being given to interested and qualified parties for planting and protection for 25 years.

The DENR is providing some seedlings and free technical assistance.

The Philippines has adopted sustainable development as its framework for development since 1992. This means a development that does not only consider short term economic gains but ensures long-term sustainability.

Protecting our remaining forested areas and rehabilitating denuded ones is key to attaining sustainable development.

An OPEN LETTER to APJ and FPJ

We are overseas Filipinos representing many different associations but all bound by a common denominator - OUR LOVE FOR THE PHILIPPINES. We made the supreme sacrifice of leaving the comfort of our country, families and friends to work abroad with the hope of creating a brighter future for our children and our nation. It is this love for country that has encouraged us to come together and urge Senator AQUILINO "NENE" PIMENTEL, JR. (APJ) and FERNANDO POE, JR. (FPJ) to JOIN FORCES and make a similar sacrifice in the service of our country and people.

FPJ has the goodwill of the people. They see him as a sincere Filipino who wants to unify and serve the people. FPJ is not a traditional politician. FPJ is a man of the masses. He understands the people and really wants to help them. He represents hope for our people. His detractors, however, highlight his lack of education and inexperience with governance. They paint a doomsday picture claiming that an FPJ presidency will result in the collapse and the ruin of the country! They claim that FPJ's inexperience will make him the puppet of people with vested interests now surrounding him! The grain of truth in these claims has turned into a sand dune of fear for many of our countrymen who now dread the reality of an FPJ presidency. It is this fear that threatens FPJ from unifying the people and being elected into public office.

On the other hand, AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR.(APJ) is the embodiment of what competence and integrity should be in public service. A fearless and honest leader, APJ has shown that he has the moral fiber, fortitude, education, experience, and credentials a president need to lead our country. He sees to it that the rule of law applies equally to each and every individual regardless of their economic stature. For APJ, everyone is guaranteed that they will get the same kind of justice as affirmed in the Constitution whether he is rich or poor. Having served the people in various capacities as Constitutional Convention delegate, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor, DILG Secretary, Senator, and Senate President, APJ is most prepared for and is most qualified for the presidency. His track record in governance confirms his consistency in his oath to serve the people. His public service may be characterized by three words: COMPETENCE, COURAGE and INCORRUPTIBLE. He is truly our nation's hope.

Together, however, APJ and FPJ are unbeatable and become the best team that can serve the country! We therefore urge APJ and FPJ to join forces for the sake of our people!!! NENE PIMENTEL (APJ) FOR PRESIDENT!!! FPJ FOR VICE- PRESIDENT!!! In the same manner that Mother Teresa once told Princess Diana, "You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. But together, we can do great things", we urge APJ and FPJ to UNITE IN THE SERVICE OF OUR PEOPLE AND COUNTRY!!!

APJ-FPJ para sa PILIPINAS!!!
PIMENTEL-POE TAYO!!!

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat!

Global Coalition of Friends, Supporters and Sympathizers of Nene Pimentel, Worldwide
Please visit us:
www.nenepimentelforpresident.com **www.friendsofnenepimentel.com**

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Buried gifts, buried hopes in Surigao

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
Surigao City

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jimbo Rendon was supposed to attend a Christmas party in his school that fateful Friday morning.

He was already a few meters down the road from their house when he suddenly heard a thunderous explosion up in the mountain. He could not believe what he saw.

Rocks, trees and mud rushed from the mountain toward their house. As if all demons from hell came to chase him, Jimbo sped toward their house, tears streaming down his cheeks.

"Mama Ana! Mama Lita!," he shouted. His two aunts were already buried, together with six other cousins, including 8-month-old Dennise and 6-month-old Lijoashane.

An eerie silence descended. Jimbo tried frantically to dig his way to the house, when another surge of mud descended toward him, hitting and injuring him in the legs.

Finally, fright overcame Jimbo. He could not do anything but run for safety as he saw another landslide rushing at him.

This was just one of the many tragic stories that gripped survivors of the landslide in Purok 2, Sitio Kinabutan, Barangay Rizal in Surigao City on that morning of Dec. 19.

Several weeks before incessant rain pounded Surigao City and other areas in the Caraga, the sun was up, and people everywhere were busy preparing for the holidays.

During the heavy downpour that resulted in widespread flooding in the city, the villagers did not think of evacuating, believing they were already safe on high ground. They did not expect that a landslide would occur, for they have been living there for so many years without experiencing such problems.

FE EDILLOR sorts out the few possessions salvaged by the search and rescue team from her buried house.

MA. KRISTINA CASSION

Complacency became their downfall. The first-ever landslide to hit the city claimed the lives of 15 family members and caused injuries to seven others. Several hectares of prime farmland were entombed.

Countdown

Christmas Eve was only a few hours away. Jimbo sat forlorn, looking out of the window. His leg wounds had healed and he was back to their house near the highway. But he could not even glance at the blinking lights on the Christmas tree and other decorations in the house.

Jimbo had lived with his aunts since summer, working for them in exchange for board and lodging, and schooling. He goes to the nearby Rizal National High School.

"It pains me deeply, now that they are gone. My cousins and I were very close and I even helped take care of the babies. I was looking forward to spending the holidays with them. My Mama Ana and Mama Lita already wrapped my gifts and we were planning a small *salo-salo* together with my mother," he said.

But Lisa, Jimbo's mother, was grateful despite the misfortune. At least her son survived.

"This is the best Christmas gift the Lord has given me. Although we could not celebrate Christmas eve as we used to since we are still in mourning, we will hear Mass and thank God for sparing Jimbo," Lisa said.

Fe Edillor, who lost her husband Dominador and daughters Fe Anne and Emyrose, spent Christmas at the hospital where her 5-year-old daughter Fatima Mae and son Dominador Jr. were still recuperating from injuries.

Fe was working in the city when the landslide occurred. When she heard the news, she immediately went home, only to find that it was buried under boulders and mud.

Several neighbors, including members of a search and rescue team, were trying to remove Fatima and Dominador Jr. from the debris.

On that day, too, the remains of Emyrose were recovered. Those of Fe Anne and her father were found the following day.

Fe was at the site of the landslide on Christmas eve, offering candles for her dead. She was sobbing as she sorted out the few possessions that the rescue team had salvaged from their house. Each item evoked so much memories that it made her cry.

"I could not think of spending Christmas without them. How can I survive a lifetime without the husband who has been with me through thick and thin? My Fe Anne was only 3 years old and Emyrose was only 24 years old. They could have had a good life ahead of them," Fe said.

"But I have to force myself now to focus on my surviving children, they are all that I have now."

At the hospital, Fe disclosed that Fatima had asked for a doll for Christmas, while Dominador Jr. wanted a toy robot. Their gifts had been buried together with their house, but Fe promised to buy them gifts again.

"Our Christmas may now lack the usual merrymaking, but I have to give them the gifts they have been asking for, if only to erase the horror and pain of what they have experienced," Fe said.

Christmas gift

The elders, too, are yearning for a gift this Christmas. For Aniseta Custodio, 57, it is a house where she could go home to.

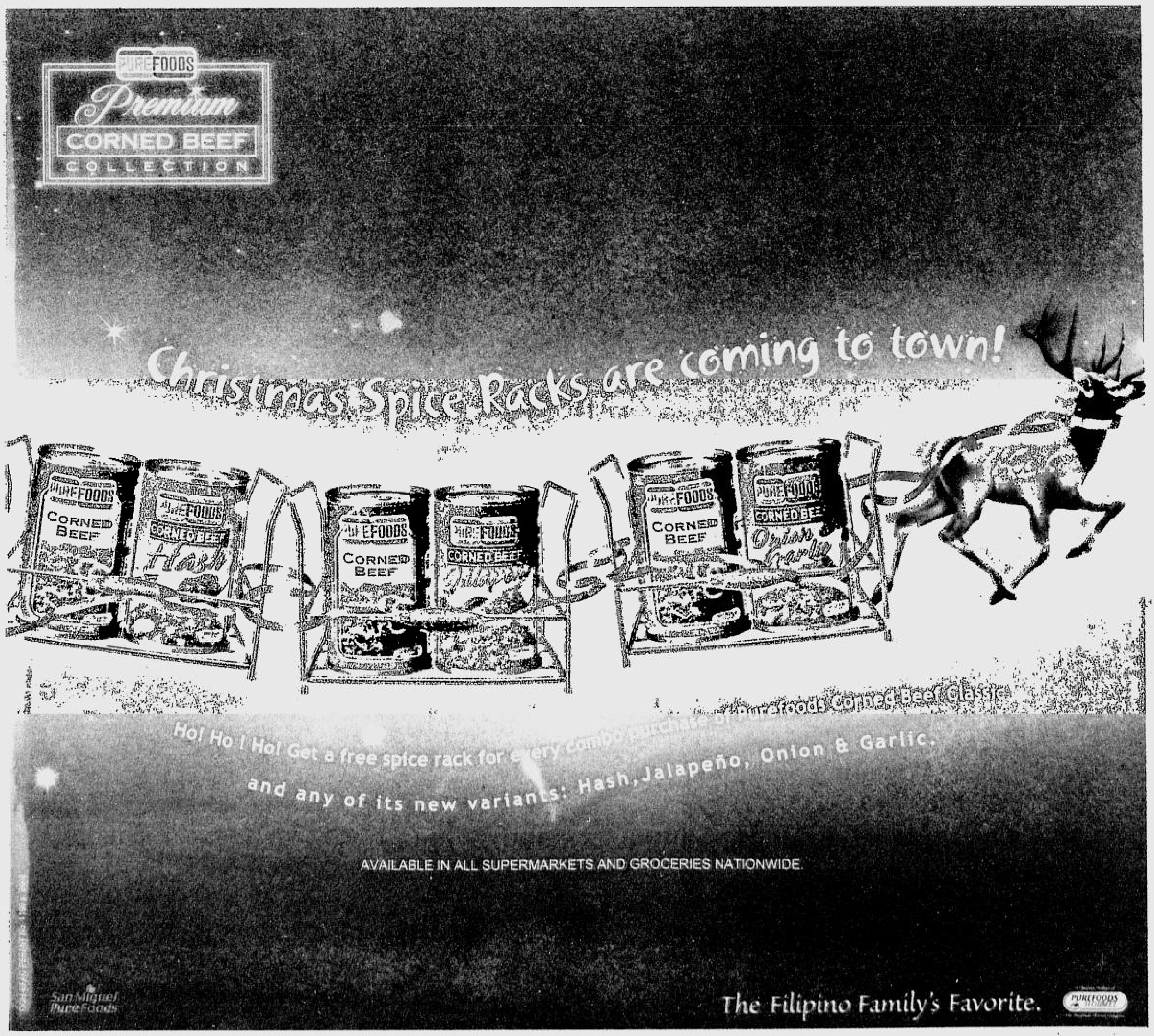
Aniseta once lived with her 60-year-old husband and three children in a rented house on Borromeo and Roxas Extension near the river, on one side, and the sea, on the other. The heavy flooding and strong current brought about by the continuous downpour swept away their house and meager possessions.

The couple has since been living with other evacuees at the provincial gymnasium that has been turned into an evacuation center.

Aniseta lamented that the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office has turned down her plea for relief funds. She was told that she was not entitled to such assistance as they were only renting the place.

"How about us who are actually living in the place and whose possessions were lost? I think we are also entitled for even a little help. We do not have the funds to rent another house and my children are still in school," Aniseta said.

She appealed to city officials to help them, as a gift this Christmas.



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2 rookies defy police ban on firing guns

By Tina Santos and Leila Salaverria

EVEN though the police have been warned not to fire their guns to celebrate the passing of the year—an offense that calls for outright dismissal—two rookie lawmen on Christmas Day allegedly did just that, wounding a bystander and a responding policeman in Caloocan City.

P01 Russel Keith Ang and P01 Eduardo Palomares of the Caloocan Police were said to be drunk when they started firing their guns in front of a convenience store in Bagong Silang at around 7:30 p.m. Both men were about to buy more beer when they fired their guns and wounded Earl John Atezorra, 21.

SP04 Jesus dela Cueva was also wounded in the incident, police said.

The incident came a day before Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, National Capital Region Police Office chief, warned his men to refrain from carrying their firearms in public during the holidays.

De Leon said that any lawman caught or reported to have discharged his gun would be placed under arrest and will be criminally charged.

Thje same rule applies to licensed civilian gun owners.

"A gun owner caught firing his gun indiscriminately risks losing his license and faces criminal charges," De Leon said.

In Manila, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday urged his men to make do with sparklers and firecrackers that are not illegal to welcome 2004.

Bulaong said that on Dec. 30, the nozzles of the firearms of lawmen would be wrapped with masking tape to ensure that the guns would not be used unnecessarily.

After the holiday comes the nightmare

CITY workers clean up after revelers have had their fun at the the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. ERIK ARAZAS

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE CHRISTMAS parties are over. Now, the nightmare begins.

Where people had gathered on the night before Christmas, there now are piles of garbage. The fumes of firecrackers have been replaced by the disgusting smell of rotting leftovers and peelings mixed with used cans, bottles, gift wrappers and plastic packs.

The post-Christmas garbage problem has also become worse because garbage collectors have taken a much-deserved break from their jobs.

Thus, key roads like Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City and areas in Caloocan City were decorated with mounds of garbage as of Thursday.

In Dagat-Dagatan Avenue, near the corner of Langaray in Caloocan, residents and passengers on Thursday were treated to a disgusting smell that never failed to catch attention.

The INQUIRER saw a 20-meter stack of garbage along the street, eating up the road's rightmost lane.

Residents told the INQUIRER that they had gotten used to seeing and smelling the garbage in the area. But that has worsened on Friday. The garbage volume has increased as the garbage collectors went on holiday—presumably generating garbage themselves.

LGUs lose millions in 'tiangge' sales

By Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos

THE GOVERNMENT is losing millions of pesos in uncollected dues from flea markets or "tiangges," according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

At the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan, nine percent of tiangges have not been paying corresponding taxes, as mandated under Revenue Regulation 24-2003.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno discovered this when around 20 tax examiners swooped down on stall owners in the commercial complex last week.

Of the 130 flea markets inspected, only 20 have been issuing updated receipts. The majority either do not issue receipts, or they give out old receipts, according to Cesario Leynes, San Juan's internal revenue chief.

The non-issuance of receipts alone is already ground for closure.

Leynes said the majority are also not paying the mandated fee of P150 per day, or P4,500 per month, to the city and municipal governments.

Under BIR rules the payment should be made in advance through banks

Leynes, however, clarified that this is not only happening at the Greenhills Shopping Complex, but is actually rampant throughout the country.

Tiangge owners had earlier protested against Revenue Regulation 16-2003, and had asked then Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho to scrap it or amend it.

Under the amended version, 24-2003, tiangge operators may be registered and given business permits, just like those with regular businesses.

The BIR official said they will be sending letters to stall owners, explaining the rules and asking them to pay the necessary penalties.

Tiangge operators face closure if they ignore the BIR, Leynes said.

But Leynes said they would be given ample time.

"We don't want them to close shop, Leynes said. "We just want them to pay their corresponding taxes."

"If they can afford to pay P1,500 per day for the stall's rent, then there is no reason why they can't pay the BIR P150 per day," he said.

Licenses for hawkers

To protect the livelihood of ambulant vendors in Quezon City, the local council has approved an ordinance providing for the registration of their businesses.

The ordinance, introduced by 13 councilors led by Julian Coseteng, would be known as the "Vendor Registration and Security Ordinance."

The councilors said the law seeks to protect the vendors from being deprived of their source of income. The measure will also protect the rights of consumers.

Under the ordinance, vendors are required to present barangay certifications attesting that they are residents of the place where they sell their wares.

The ordinance also authorizes the city mayor to assign vending spaces for qualified vendors, who will be required to display their business permits while selling their wares.

But the vendors will still be prohibited from selling their wares in places not designated by the city government, particularly on major roads.

Beggars too, get to feed, feel the spirit of Xmas

ITO ANG TUNAY NA DIWA NG PASKO! MARAMI PONG SALAMAT!
Steph

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Volt Contreras

LIKE the shepherds of Bethlehem on the first Christmas night, street children, beggars and vagrants rounded up by authorities from around Metro Manila spent their Noche Buena around a bonfire.

It was the traditional Christmas Eve rite at the Jose Fabella Center in Mandaluyong City, one of the facilities of the Department of Social Welfare and Development for mending broken, hopeless lives picked up from the streets.

While the rest of the metropolis had families unwrapping their gifts around glittering Christmas trees, JFC's "clients" opened their *aguinaldos*, courtesy of private donors, by the roaring flames then illuminating the center's compound.

After the donated food—consisting of spaghetti, *biko*, apples and hot chocolate—were passed around, JFC's 120 wards celebrated the birth of Christ by dancing, singing and playing parlor games.

And in that holiest of nights, wards like Henry Kalinga, 25, declared during the "sharing" session that he is "lucky" to be in such company, despite being penniless and abandoned by parents since his infancy.

"I just told my fellow clients that we're still luckier, actually, than many others, like the (landslide) victims in (Southern) Leyte," Kalinga on Friday said in Filipino.

He was referring to the Dec. 20 disaster that had claimed some 700 lives in the Visayan province.

Kalinga said he was left by his impoverished mother, Elizabeth, to the care of the social workers when he was about a year old.

A family later adopted him, but after several years, he "rebelled" against his foster parents for not telling him at once about his true identity. He eventually fled home and got "in and out" of different social welfare institutions.

He was admitted to the JFC last Nov. 16. The center is presently trying to locate his parents and siblings.

During the Noche Buena program, Kalinga said he has made fellow clients realize that the "spirit of Christmas" was very much alive, as proven by the gifts and food sent to them by total strangers.

JFC staff member Marilyn Abuso said among the private donors who gave food and gifts to the center this Christmas are Mandaluyong City Rotarians, students from the AMA computer school, Shangri-La Hotel Makati, teachers from the Immaculada Concepcion school in San Juan, and a Chinese temple.

The DSWD runs the center not just to provide meals and lodging for its clients, until they can be returned to their respective families, but also to revive their self-esteem and positive disposition through a series of counseling sessions conducted during their stay.

In Marikina, street kids get to party with cops

By Luige del Puerto

WHAT is P60 nowadays?

It could buy a seat in a movie house, three packs of cigarettes, or a party for Marikina City's street kids.

Most of the 280 policemen in Marikina have each set aside a day's worth of subsistence allowance—P60—so they could play Santa to the city's less fortunate young today, according to Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief.

The party will start at 9 a.m. at the city's Sports Complex.

Rojas said they would buy the gift items in Divisoria, where goods are cheaper.

Rojas said this is the police's way of giving back to the community, especially to the more vulnerable members of society.

Law enforcers and street children are no stranger to each other. Both prowl the streets and, at times, often bump into each other under very difficult circumstances.

Some of the street kids steal to survive, and cops go catch them, or shoo them away.

But not on Sunday, Rojas said.

"I ordered each precinct commander to bring along 15 street kids from their territories for the party," Rojas said.

The police are also urging residents who have more to share. "Come to the party," he said. "Bring something, anything. It would be fun, I promise."

The Civic Action Group, a non-government organization that works closely with the police, hatched the idea early this month.

But the NGO didn't have the money to organize the party.

"So, I volunteered to set aside a day's subsistence allowance," Rojas said. "It should be enough."

Asked whether his men are grumbling, Rojas said so far he has heard none.

"The cops I talked to said they are willing to part with their money," Rojas said. "Besides, it would all be accounted for."

Police Insp. Cruz, head of the city's criminal investigation unit, said he and his men are fully supporting the idea.

"It's for our children," Cruz said. "What's P60 for a few hours of fun?"

POLICEMEN, including this one in a mascot's getup, get to treat street children in Quezon City on Christmas. The less fortunate kids in Marikina today will get their turn to have fun. EDWIN BACASMAS

Man stabs wife, her lover in Valenzuela

RONNIE Aquino allegedly stabbed and killed a man he thought was his estranged wife's lover in Valenzuela City on Thursday. The police also accused him of stabbing and wounding the woman he once loved.

Filled with remorse, Aquino on Friday surrendered to the police.

At about 5 p.m. Christmas Day, Ronnie was drinking with his wife, Annaliza Aquino, and tricycle driver Avelino Candido, 21, inside Annaliza's canteen on Sto. Rosario Street, Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela, when Ronnie saw Avelino and Annaliza holding each other's hands, said PO2 Ronald Bautista.

Ronnie, who had separated from his wife several months ago, allegedly got furious, grabbed a knife and stabbed the two.

Candido died on the spot. Annaliza was taken to the Valenzuela City General Hospital for treatment.

At 4 p.m. on Friday, Ronnie came out of hiding and surrendered to the police. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Police officials...

From page A18

New Year celebration.

The police have not received a specific threat from a specific terrorist group, Valenzuela said.

"The move is preemptive," said Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, head of the Mandaluyong Police. "The national police want our forces consolidated, in case of (an emergency)."

Marikina Police chief Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. said the cancellation of the holiday break has something to do with the "international alert against terrorism."

On Sunday, the United States government raised its terror alert to the second highest level, and had warned Americans there was a high risk that militants might launch attacks in the United States that could be bigger than those carried out on Sept. 11, 2001.

The local police have been placed on heightened early this week, Rojas said.

With the National Capital Region Police Office on full alert status, the units manning the 11 existing chokepoints in the metropolis have been redirected from carrying out anti-kidnapping operations to implementing anti-terrorism measures.

NCRPO Director Ricardo De Leon has also ordered the additional deployment of mobile checkpoints, especially in key areas in the metropolis.

In Manila, the police have been directed to step up security measures in the city to ensure that a repeat of the grisly Rizal Day bombings in 2000 would not take place.

The most destructive of the attacks took place at the Blumentritt station of the Light Rail Transit in Manila, where over 10 persons were killed and dozens injured.

The police have already secured shopping malls, transportation terminals, especially the Metro Rail Transit and Light Railway Transit stations, communication facilities and oil depots.

SUERTRES 8 8 5

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

6/42 Luzon

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CHERRY HILLS TRAGEDY IN THE MAKING

Rizal folk fear landslide in their backyard

By Volt Contreras

ALARMED by the massive Dec. 20 landslides that had left scores dead in Southern Leyte and northeastern Mindanao, people's organizations in San Mateo, Rizal, are reviving calls for a halt on the development of their "high-risk" hills into sprawling subdivisions or golf courses.

The groups cited an Aug. 12 "geohazard assessment" report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that identified up to six sites where anti-erosion measures must be urgently applied.

Leaders of the Buklod Tao Inc. and Gising Kabayan, both based in San Mateo, warned that "pallative measures" prescribed by the DENR in the report may not be enough to prevent similar, rain-triggered landslides in their town.

High-risk areas

"Our natural terrain is being modified to suit development projects, instead of the other way around," said Teodulo Garcia, 72, a retired businessman from Barangay Malanday and founding member of Gising Kabayan. He said that no measure can be taken to "restore the original functions and (level of) safety of the area."

"Unless these areas are restored and rehabilitated, the likes of the August 1999 Cherry Hills (subdivision) tragedy, and now the Southern Leyte landslides, might (also happen) in our town," warned BTI president Noli Abinales.

A resident of Barangay Banaba, Abinales furnished the INQUIRER with the DENR report on geology identifying six specific high-risk areas. The DENR, specifically its Mines and Geosciences Bureau, conducted the study upon BTI's request.

Unstable ground

The report covered the Sta. Barbara Villas Phase 5, an "abandoned" golf course of Filinvest Land Inc., the Ares I farm-to-market road, Barangay Malanday, Lower Pulang Lupa in Barangay Sto. Niño, and the C-6 Road in Barangay Maarat.

The findings on Sta. Barbara, for example, noted that excavation work and the dumping of loose earth on the sloping terrain have caused the "instability" of the slope.

On the abandoned golf course, the report said "previous earth-moving activities spoiled and made slopes unstable and… caused siltation along the lower section of the adjacent creeks."

Crack on the road

As to the Ares I road, the report noted a "210-meter crack" on its surface, also due to soil erosion, and recommended that electrical posts along the road be "relocated to a more stable location."

In Barangay Malanday, the report noted that Patiis Road had become flood-prone because the flow of rainwater that used to be directed via a natural creek to either an irrigation canal or a fishpond "was closed, allegedly by the owner of Villa Trinidad," a private residential enclave.

The DENR-MGB also called for the construction of protective walls along Barangay Maarat's portion of C-6, since the road is now "susceptible to rock fall" from the steep slopes bordering its shoulders.

MENACING as the dog may seem to a commuter on a Light Rail Transit coach, the presence of this K-9 unit at the Manila station can only mean safe passage for the passengers this holiday.

ERIK ARAZAS

Police officials recall cops on holiday break

By Luige del Puerto, Edson Tandoc Jr. and Leila Salaverria

NATIONAL police officials have cancelled the holiday break of Metro Manila lawmen to ensure the presence of a "normal" standing force for the New Year celebration.

Police officials are said to have issued the order in response to the terrorist alerts raised by international intelligence agencies.

According to a letter of instruction from the Philippine National Police, officials cited "unconfirmed reports that terrorists would attack this holiday season."

Policemen who went to the provinces have been recalled, while those who were scheduled to take the New Year off were told to take their leave after the holidays, Eastern Police District head Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela said.

In most police stations, half of the policemen had gone off for a vacation. Earlier, police chiefs were given the discretion on how to manage the holiday break of their men.

The district director said that national police officials want a "normal force" for the

POLICE/A17

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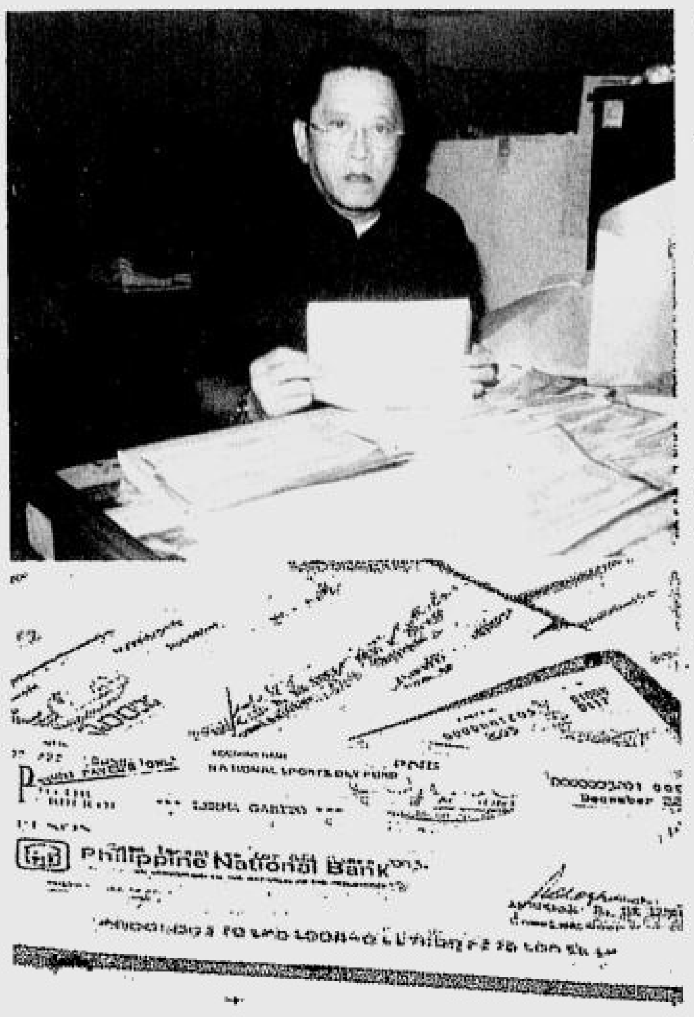
Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Grizzlies vs Mavericks; 9:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Memphis hopes to give Dallas the blues in this battle of Midwest Conference rivals.

HORSE RACING: Breeder's Cup 2003; 4 p.m.; Solar Sports—Take another look at one of the most important horse races of the year.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

No postdated checks issued to SEAG bets



ACTING PSC executive director Edgardo Mateo shows the checks, dated Dec. 22, 2003, before these were given out to the athletes.

ATHLETES who won medals in the recent 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam did not receive their incentives in postdated checks issued by the Philippine Sports Commission.

And the checks were handed out neither to "project a very pleasant side" of the Presidency or use the athletes "for media mileage."

These were the assertions of lawyer Rod Nepomuceno, executive director of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo" program, who branded as "unfounded" allegations that came out in an INQUIRER report yesterday, with the headline "Broken Promise: Postdated Christmas for SEAG Medalists."

Nepomuceno said the First Gentleman Foundation was "extremely disappointed" because the story, written by veteran columnist Recah Trinidad, was "based on false information, hearsay and unsubstantiated accusations."

He said "the issue raised by the report on the postdated checks is totally unfounded."

"As the PSC will explain and prove, no such checks were issued. It is not the policy of government agencies to issue postdated checks," Nepomuceno explained.

It was "impossible," he added, that some athletes received incentive checks dated Dec. 29.

Trinidad yesterday clarified that the checks were not postdated, contrary to what his sources at the POC had claimed. He apologized for the error.

Nepomuceno also said the statements attributed to chess grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio were likewise unfounded.

In a joint statement faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday, Torre and Antonio took strong exception to the report.

"We received our checks on Dec. 23, which had all been dated Dec. 22 and not Dec. 29," the two GMs said. "But even if the checks came late, there was no way for (us) to utter any complaint against the First Gentleman who has given special and tremendous support to Philippine chess . . ."

Trinidad said the issue was raised because, despite the fact that the checks were indeed not postdated, the awardees were unable to encash the incentives in time for the holidays because the checks were released after banking hours on Dec. 23.

Trinidad insisted that he got this information from sources in the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The same sources told Trinidad that although the checks were dated Dec. 22, the recipients were advised not to encash them as there were no funds immediately available.

Nepomuceno said no one has the right to question the intention of the First Couple to help the athletes, "much less to suggest that such assistance was made purely for purposes of gaining publicity."

"When a person helps another, it is not proper for a third person to question the motives of the person providing the assistance," Nepomuceno said.

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Buhain lauds athletes for 'getting job done in 2003'

CALLING them the lifeblood of local sports, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday praised the athletes for getting the job done in 2003.

He urged them to face the challenges of the new year and 2005, when the country takes its turn to host the Southeast Asian Games.

"Thank you very much for making us, Filipinos, proud to have a fighting core of national athletes like you. Despite the hardships and the limited resources, you came through it all and gave your best. We also thank you for the fourth place finish in Vietnam (SEA Games)," he said.

Close to P13 million in incentives from Malacañang were released by the PSC to the athletes last Dec. 23. The Philippines finished fourth overall in Vietnam with 48 gold, 54 silver and 75 bronze medals.

"The government tries to reciprocate in whatever way it could in giving back to the athletes the support they deserve, including the incentives," said Buhain.

The PSC also thanked the First Gentleman for helping the athletes "up to the last minute (of their Vietnam stint)."

Buhain expressed resentment over a recent news report that the First Couple used the athletes to project a very pleasant side of the Presidency.

"That is totally unfair because they are sincere in helping the athletes and local sports. It even took a lot of encouragement for Attorney Arroyo to come out in regards to his projects for the athletes," said Buhain.

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Golf greats Tugot, Arda to PSA Hall of Fame

TWO living legends in local golf, Celestino Tugot and Ben Arda, will be enshrined to the Hall of Fame during the Philippine Sportswriters Association's Annual Awards Night on Jan. 9 at the Holiday Inn-Manila Pavilion.

The stirring achievements of Tugot and Arda spawned the rise not just of Filipino golfers but Asians in the early years of the overseas tours, especially in the Asian Circuit where they both shot their way to unparalleled fame.

Tugot, now 89, survived a boat tragedy in his teens to become one of the greatest Filipino golfers of all time.

He is a six-time champion of the Philippine Open, one of Asia's oldest professional tournament, including a stretch of four straight victories from 1955. Aside from a rare stint in the US Masters, Tugot also went on to establish himself as a dominant power in the local circuit.

Drawing inspiration from Tugot, Arda led the next generation of golfing stars from the Philippines.

From a ball boy and a caddie at the Cebu Country Club, he turned pro years after the second World War.

It was not until the early 1960s when Arda hit it big, winning the first two of his three RP Open titles in 1961 and 1963.

Despite his shortness in height at 5-foot-5, his ability to conquer the tall men from the west earned him the monicker Bantam Ben which became more famous when he became the first Filipino to play in the British Open and the US Masters.

Arda's capture of the Japan Open which won him $25,000 and a Datsun car remains as the biggest feat so far by a local pro in foreign land and his runner-up finish with Rudy Labares in the World Cup of Golf the country hosted at Wack Wack in 1977 remains unmatched.

Spurs post 12th straight victory

SAN ANTONIO—The Orlando Magic were victim No. 1 in San Antonio's current winning streak. They became victim No. 12 Friday night in the NBA.

The Spurs, led by Tony Parker, went on a 15-0 run late in the final period to defeat the Magic, 98-83.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 27 points and 16 rebounds, while Parker added a season-high 22 points and reserve Robert Horry had 14—his high total with the Spurs.

"Every night different people step up," Duncan said. "The guys on the bench are eager to get on the floor and take their opportunity."

The Spurs began their winning streak Dec. 5 in Orlando after losing four straight and dropping into last place in the Midwest Division with a record of 9-10. San Antonio now sits atop the division at 21-10.

The Spurs were up 83-81 when Duncan hit a short jump hook with 6:09 remaining to begin the decisive run. Bruce Bowen made a corner 3-pointer with 3:36 left to make it 90-81, and Parker scored on three consecutive possessions.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jason Kidd did it all—including making his freethrows when it mattered most.

Kidd had 24 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for his NBA-leading fifth triple-double, and the New Jersey Nets held on for a 82-79 win over the Detroit Pistons.

Complete results:

Miami 92, Washington 84; Chicago 87, Cleveland 80; New Jersey 82, Detroit 79; New York 98, Memphis 94; New Orleans 109, Atlanta 79; Milwaukee 101, Indiana 96; San Antonio 98, Orlando 83; Denver 95, Houston 94; Boston 104, Phoenix 102; Utah 97, Toronto 94 (OT); Golden State 98, Sacramento 91; LA Clippers 101 Philadelphia 98; Portland 101, Minnesota 92.

OFWs see action in Bong Coo tilt

BALIKBAYAN bowlers from 10 countries are seeing action in the Bong Coo MVP Cup which fired off yesterday at the Green Valley Country Club Bowling Center in Pasig.

Bowlers vacationing from their duties in Brunei, Malaysia, Guam, California, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and Singapore are disputing the top awards in the event hosted by the Filipino bowlers of UAE.

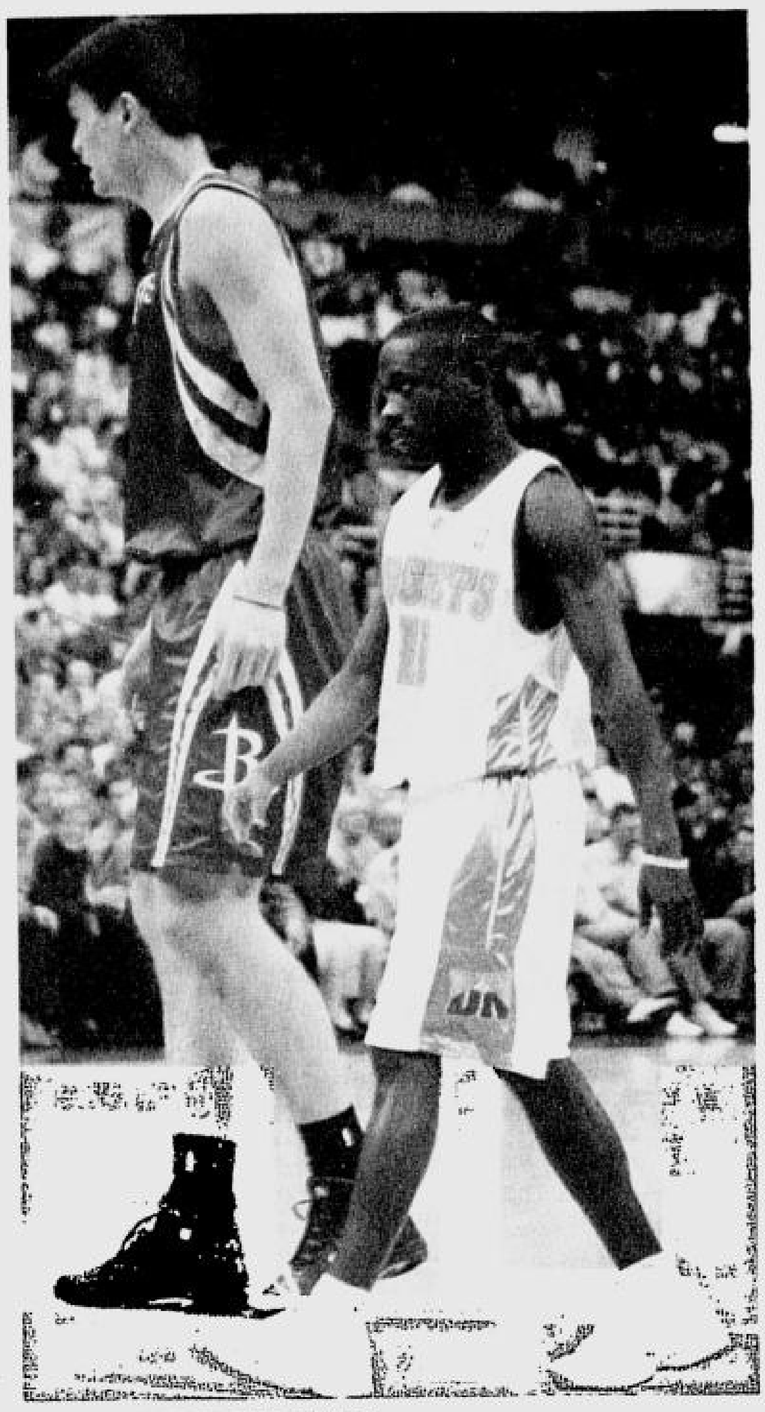
The tourney in honor of Ms Bong Coo, one of the country's greatest bowlers, is also serving as the ABS-CBN OFW Balikbayan Worldwide Bowling Tournament.

Up for grabs are prizes amounting to P200,000 with the champion receiving a lion's share of P100,000 plus a trophy.

Special awards include P10,000 and a trophy to the first Perfect 300 game, P3,000 and trophy to the High Series during the qualifying game and P2,000 and trophy to the High Game.

Yesterday's opening ceremonies was graced by FIQ president-elect Steve Hontiveros who delivered an inspirational talk and was later joined by Ms Coo in making the ceremonial roll.

The organizing committee is headed by Ver Lacuata as chair, Teddy Yu as vice chair, Irene Serrano, treasurer; Art Oberio tournament director, Dr. Ronnie Fabian (sponsorship) and Ariel Serrano (administrator). Dante Herras, PICPA-Dubai president, is official tabulator.



TALLEST AND SHORTEST
The NBA's tallest player China's Yao Ming of Houston at 7-foot-6 and shortest Earl Boykins of Denver at 5-foot-5 cross paths during a break in their NBA game Friday. The Nuggets won, 95-94. REUTERS

SPORTSWATCH

Lopez tops Cebu run

UNHERALDED runner and late entry Mendel Lopez took advantage of the lead pack's monumental blunder in the final turning point to rule the other Sunday's 3rd Cebu 5K Midnight Run at the City Sports Club Cebu. The University of Southern Philippines engineering student clocked 17 minutes and 26 seconds to claim his first major title. The top seeds, including defending champion Tirso Pamaybay, Rogelio Reli, Joseph Pinales and Joseph Codino, made a wrong turn in the last 200 meters that cost them the race. Ageless Cristituto Cañete wound up second in 17:31 while Roldan Pantanosas placed third in 17:41. In the distaff side Cebu's marathon queen Christy Sevilleno registered 20:11 to rout the field. Race director Raffy Uytiepo together with City Sports Club Cebu general manager Mila Cabiluna and sports manager Rey Fuentes III awarded the prizes. The race was co-sponsored by Pryce Gases Inc., Adidas, Pharmaton Multivitamins, Rudy Project, Cebu Holdings Inc., Standard Chartered Bank, Roddex Faucets, Island Grill Express, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Ng Khai Computers, Chenies Fish Supply, Tambuli Beach Resort, Seiko Service Center, Sherline's Plastics & Dot Sorts. The run was also backed by the Philippine Sports Commission-Cebu, ERUF, Comm 15 and the Cebu City Sports Center.

RP pug in rankings

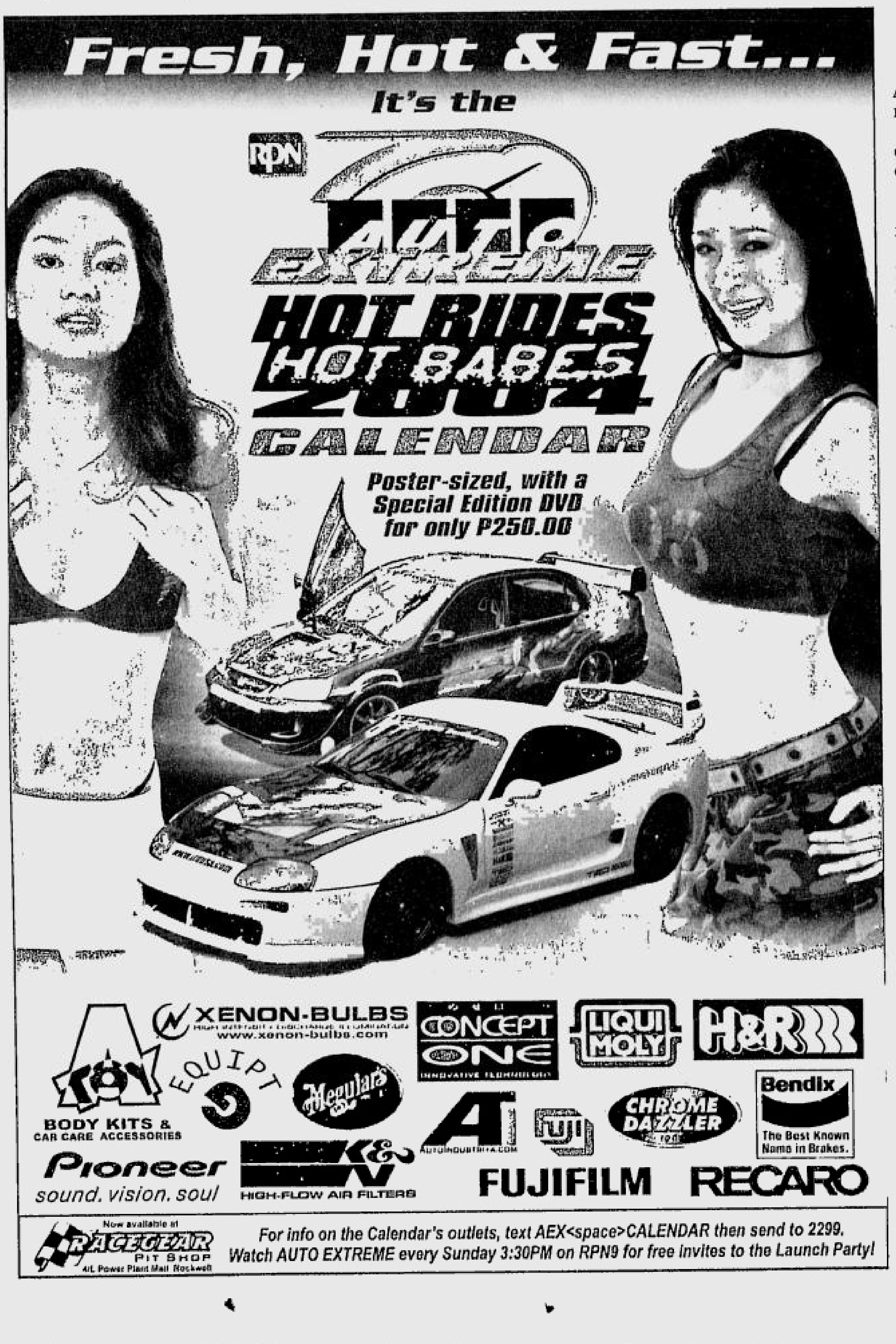
EXPECT Filipino Rolly Lunas to barge into the top 10 when the World Boxing Association releases its rankings next month. The Tabako City-raised Lunas, with a record of 16 wins, 2 losses with 9 KO's, successfully defended his Pan-Asia Boxing Association title last Dec. 19 in Balanga, Bataan, knocking out Thai Phises Vor Surapol in six rounds. The win will most likely catapult the WBA No. 14 Lunas into the top 10. Meanwhile, the Lunas-Surapol duel, dubbed "Battle in Balanga 3," will be aired today from 4 to 6 p.m. over at IBC-13. ***Salven Lagumbay, Contributor***

Provincial bets win

JUKE Alban of Surigao City, John Anthony Sobrevega of Iloilo and Leyan Moncera of Olongapo led the provincial assault with victories over separate rivals in the boys' 14-under division yesterday in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Ynares Sports Center claycourts in Pasig. Alban whipped Paul Cang, 6-3, 6-4; Sobrevega ousted Rodel Navarro, 6-3, 6-0, and Moncera edged Juan Carlo Pantua of South Cotabato, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4. San Beda's Marvin Serito of Cagayan de Oro City downed Luis Locsin, 6-4, 6-3 and Batac, Ilocos Norte pride Patrick Arevalo routed Francise Onate, 6-1, 6-3, in the year-ender Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and NBN-4 Sunday TV show Sports Kids with Philta sanction.

$80-M Christmas present

ASHBURN, Virginia—Washington Redskins All-Pro linebacker LaVar Arrington got the big Christmas present he wanted on Friday, agreeing to an eight-year contract extension worth a reported $80 million. The deal, which according to reports includes a $20 million signing bonus, will make the 25 year-old one of the highest paid defensive players in league history. "LaVar Arrington is a Redskin through and through," Redskins owner Daniel Snyder said. The second overall pick in the 2000 draft, Arrington has registered a career-high 112 tackles this season, along with six sacks and two fumble recoveries. ***AP***



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I am running

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A FRIEND of mine wanted to know if I was running in the May 2004 elections.

"I guess I am," I told him. "I am a Filipino citizen. I can read and write. I am not an ex-convict. I am not insane."

For mayor or congressman?

"Am still unsure," I said. "But for sure I am running."

He said the tricycle drivers of our town have prepared a manifesto urging me to run for mayor. "Some 20,000 of them have signed already."

Amazing. There are only close to 30,000 voters registered in my town.

"But even elementary pupils and high school students have signed the manifesto," he said. "Far as they are concerned, you are more lovable than the F4 from Taiwan."

He said there's now a tug-of-war between my townmates on the one hand and my constituents in the second district of Pangasinan on the other.

"The truth is, a similar campaign to draft you for congressman has been snowballing the last two months," he said. "Thousands of your Calicdan and Soriano relatives in the towns of Urbiztondo, Aguilar, Bugallon and Lingayen have bandied together to rally behind you."

Agay met latan, Kuya.

I am flattered, indeed.

My maternal grandmother is a Calicdan (Concepcion), who was a beautiful Spanish mestiza. Her daughter, Remedios, took after her so that Remedios became queen of Pangasinan when beauty contests then were held on the basis of brains and beauty and not money and popularity.

"You may not know this, but many of the sons and daughters of your mother's slew of suitors know you," my friend said. "They are not only dying to meet you. They want you badly to run for congressman."

My mother's father, Manuel Soriano from Lingayen, had the haircut of Aguinaldo and the brains of Palaris.

"Oh, he was a most respected citizen during his time," my departed mother would always say when talk veered to Tatay Maning after family dinners back in the old days. The unfortunate thing was, I was barely two years old when Tatay Maning died.

As a kid, I had always wanted to serve the people. That commitment was reinforced when I got hold of Mao Zedong's Red Book. But somewhere along the way, that passion was overrun by events. One such event was marriage; another was my romance with words. They became my world, more lasting than time itself. They still are.

And now, all too suddenly, it's starting to hound me again: politics. My mother was, to begin with, a politician all her life. She retired the unbeaten president of the Pangasinan ABC (Association of Barangay Captains). Had my father not restrained her, she would have run for mayor of our town—and won hands-down. Practically all the gubernatorial bets back then—from Agbayani to Duque to Estrella to Primicias—wooed her come election time. One time, she chose Angel B. Fernandez over Joe de Venecia and Joe DV got soundly beaten in a dramatic congressional battle sometime in the '60s. And Joe DV was her cousin at that.

Ah, the trauma and drama of politics.

"It's about time you rekindle that fire in your heart again," said my friend. "I know you were set to run in 1992 but somehow, you restrained yourself and decided at the last minute not to."

The position I was supposed to aspire for then was the congressional seat of the second district of Pangasinan. Said to me by Tata Condring Estrella, Danding Cojuangco's man in Region I, back then: "If you have P200,000, you are a sure winner." I believed Tata Condring, the former governor of Pangasinan. But I didn't have the money. And maybe, even if I had that, still I would not have run. I took heed of another friend's counsel: "A true friend will not advice you to run for a political office."

But I am having second thoughts now. I feel I am running. I guess that sage of decades ago, whoever he was, was right: Evil men succeed because of the silence of good men. There's just too many evil ways, evil-doers, in our midst that it's about time we help put an end to all this political perfidy and despicable demagoguery prevalent in our society.

"Mayor or congressman, whichever you choose, you are a sure winner," said my friend.

Thank you.

"So have you made up your mind?" he pursued. "Shall I start calling you mayor, or is it Cong Al?"

"Not so fast," I said. "I guess I am running for president."

He pouted. "Are you serious?"

I replied: "Am I the joking type? There is only one Dolphy in the world."

And his answer was the mother of all answers: "And there's only one king in Philippine movies: FPJ."

Agay met latan, Kuya.

The best and the worst

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THE *BAYANG karerista* has chosen the best and the worst performers in local racing for the year that is about to end.

Here are their choices:

- **Horse of the Year**—Hands-down pick was of course, Wind Blown.
- **Jockey of the Year**—Racing fans voted Jeffril Zarate, mainly because of the impact of his rides atop Wind Blown. They could have chosen Pat Dilema again but the latter made thousands of fans frown when he lost atop outstanding favorite San Diego Force recently. For them, that was an "Un-Jockey of the Year" ride.
- **Horseowner of the Year**—Popular sportsman Hermie Esguerra got the fans' nod as his mighty stable emerged winningest for the third straight year.
- **Trainer of the Year**—Nestor Manalang for superbly conditioning Wind Blown and the rest of the Esguerra Stable horses.
- **Comeback Jockey of the Year**—Jesus, Guce. Despite being bugged by injuries, the "Maestro" remains as the country's premier jockey.
- **Most Promising Jockey**—Given the right break, Analyn Reloto, the country's lone female jockey, could easily join the big guns in Class A.
- **Apprentice Jockey of the Year**—Joel D. Francisco. From among this year's batch of bug boys, he appeared to be the most promising.
- **Most Improved Jockey**—Eldy F. Salvador. Although his rides come only in trickles, Salvador has managed to boot home winners.
- **Biggest Upset of the Year**—Red Star Rising winning the 31st Presidential Gold Cup.
- **Memorable Event of the Year**—Wind Blown's farewell bash during the Wind Blown Racing Festival.
- **Group of the Year**—Tie between the Marho and Philtobo. Each year, Marho and Philtobo come up big with their Breeders' Cup and Mitra Cup racefests, respectively.
- **Racetrack/Club of the Year**—Still the home of the King of Sports, the Philippine Racing Club.
- **Heartbreak Horse of the Year**—Tie between West Bound, who was denied a Triple Crown sweep and edged by Red Star Rising in the PGC, and Security Master, who collapsed and died a few days after winning the Marho 3YO Colts.
- **Controversial Racing News of the Year**—Tie between the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero gun-pointing, er, cell phone-pointing incident and questionable importation of horses from Australia.

***

To all those celebrating their Big Day today, *sana marami pang birthdays na dumating sa inyo.*

At sa mga karerista, Happy New Year *sa inyong lahat!*

Jungolf meet at Midlands

THE PICTURESQUE Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club will host the inaugural Philippines-Japan Junior Golf Friendship tournament on Jan. 5-6, 2004.

The cream of the present crop of local jungolf will spearhead the Philippine bid against their Japanese counterparts in the 36-hole event designed to promote regional unity through sports.

Jayvie Agojo, Dottie Ardina, Miguel Tabuena and AR Ramos, who will be cited by the PSA for their international exploits in 2003, will banner a star-studded contingent formed by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

RED Star Rising (partly hidden, second from left) trails in the early going of the recent Presidential Gold Cup as Success Story shows the way while West Bound (7) runs alongside Material Maker.
JESS YUSON

Open Classic race today

Red Star Rising seeks repeat over West Bound

ALL eyes will be on Red Star Rising and West Bound when the Philracom Open Classic Championship gets going today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Red Star Rising edged West Bound in the recent Presidential Gold Cup and will try to prove that his win was no fluke.

But. West Bound is expected to go all out and hope to exact revenge in today's P1.67-million event, the last major race for 2003.

Red Star Rising, owned by Francis and Michael Trillana, will be partnered anew by jockey Manolito Daquis as they bid for a second consecutive classic win.

West Bound, to be handled by Jonathan Hernandez, will attempt to rebound from four consecutive runner-up defeats in top money races.

Sharing the limelight with Red Star Rising and West Bound are seven other top-notch gallopers, including four imports and three seasoned local-breds.

The imports' charge is led by recent All-Import Championship Race winner Catwalk Pia, streaking stablemates' Real Slew and Royal Catch, as well as seasoned import campaigner and JRA Cup winner Buena Sera.

The other locals joining the 2,000-meter race are Diktador, Free Wind and veteran campaigner Dandansoy.

The winner of the race will get P1 million.

Today's racing program starts at 1 p.m.

Meanwhile, weeklong races continue at the SLLP tomorrow (Dec. 29) and Wednesday (Dec. 31) and will resume on Jan. 2 to 4 (Friday to Sunday).

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Fancy Free 2. Ang Seaman 3. Dalidali
Race 2—1. Hurry King 2. High Typhoon 3. Lucky Beat 4. Gold Prosperity 5. Hong Kong Girl
Race 3—1. Very Sharp 2. Risen Free 3. Master Kenneth 4. Better Beth
Race 4—1. Windlass 2. Reporter 3. Prince Nicholas/Winter's Fury 4. Cutting Edge 5. Elusive Quality
Race 5—1. Queen of D Jungle 2. Alert One 3. Cable Car 4. Breakaway 5. Jeanne D'Arc
Race 6—1. My Sheikh 2. Star Worth/Mika's Special 3. Silver Dollar 4. Boy's Town Kid
Race 7—1. Magnanimous 2. Bold Lucky 3. Brainchild 4. You and Me 5. Ahead of Time
Race 8—1. Red Star Rising 2. Real Slew/Royal Catch 3. West Bound 4. Buena Sera 5. Catwalk Pia 6. Free Wind
Race 9—1. Loaded 2. Morning Glory 3. Ichiro 4. Carlo's Charm
Race 10—1. Mr. Yentau 2. Money Man 3. Mr. Bonjing 4. Macho Guapito/Golden Tiger 5. Lightning Strike
Race 11—1. Material Maker 2. Mica's Magic 3. Time Gentleman 4. Southern Charm 5. Golden Eagle 6. District Three
Race 12—1. Witch Craft 2. Mini Skirt 3. Candid
Race 13—1. Bella Firenze 2. Queen of Gaia 3. Max's Princess 4. Green Buck 5. Thunder Fire
Race 14—1. Twin Brother 2. Bukambibig 3. Sexy Royale 4. D'Optician 5. Perfect Gift 6. Romario

Hindi ito basta-basta bibigay, tol!
Islander
Kapal ng orig, tibay ng orig!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295453

1 MANO PO 2
2 HOMECOMING
3 FANTASTIC MAN
4 FILIPINAS
5 MALIKMATA
6 CRYING LADIES
7 CAPTAIN BARBELL
8 FILIPINAS

SM CITY CEBU
2313076

1 MANO PO 2
2 FANTASTIC MAN
3 HOMECOMING
4 FILIPINAS
5 CRYING LADIES
6 MANO PO 2
7 MALIKMATA
8 CAPTAIN BARBELL

SM CITY BACOOR
4173968

1 CRYING LADIES
2 FILIPINAS
3 FANTASTIC MAN
4 CAPTAIN BARBELL
5 MANO PO 2
6 MALIKMATA
7 HOMECOMING
8 CRYING LADIES

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 FANTASTIC MAN
2 CAPTAIN BARBELL
3 MANO PO 2
4 FILIPINAS
5 MALIKMATA
6 CRYING LADIES

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 CRYING LADIES
2 CAPTAIN BARBELL
3 MALIKMATA
4 FILIPINAS

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 FANTASTIC MAN
2 HOMECOMING
3 MANO PO 2
4 CAPTAIN BARBELL

SM CITY MARILAO

1 MALIKMATA
2 FANTASTIC MAN
3 HOMECOMING
4 MANO PO 2

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 MANO PO 2
2 CRYING LADIES
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL
4 CAPTAIN BARBELL
5 FANTASTIC MAN
6 FANTASTIC MAN
7 MALIKMATA
8 HOMECOMING
9 FILIPINAS
10 MANO PO 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8064000

1 MALIKMATA
2 FILIPINAS
3 CRYING LADIES
4 MANO PO 2
5 HOMECOMING
6 FILIPINAS
7 CAPTAIN BARBELL
8 FANTASTIC MAN
9 MALIKMATA
10 MANO PO 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 FANTASTIC MAN
2 FILIPINAS
3 CRYING LADIES
4 MALIKMATA
5 CAPTAIN BARBELL
6 FANTASTIC MAN
7 MANO PO 2
8 FANTASTIC MAN
9 CAPTAIN BARBELL
10 CAPTAIN BARBELL
11 CRYING LADIES
12 HOMECOMING

SM CITY DAVAO
2376898

1 MANO PO 2
2 HOMECOMING
3 FANTASTIC MAN
4 FILIPINAS
5 MALIKMATA
6 CRYING LADIES

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7109977-80

1 CAPTAIN BARBELL
2 MANO PO 2
3 FILIPINAS
4 FANTASTIC MAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 MANO PO 2
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6305000
2 CRYING LADIES
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL
4 MANO PO 2
5 FILIPINAS
6 HOMECOMING
7 FANTASTIC MAN
8 CRYING LADIES
9 MALIKMATA
10 FANTASTIC MAN
11 CAPTAIN BARBELL
12 FILIPINAS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 CAPTAIN BARBELL
2 MALIKMATA
3 FANTASTIC MAN
4 MANO PO 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3389422

1 MALIKMATA
2 RESERVED
3 FILIPINAS
4 FANTASTIC MAN
5 CRYING LADIES
6 MANO PO 2
7 RESERVED
8 CAPTAIN BARBELL

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1 FILIPINAS
2 FANTASTIC MAN
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL
4 MANO PO 2
5 MALIKMATA
6 CRYING LADIES
7 HOMECOMING
8 FILIPINAS
9 CAPTAIN BARBELL
10 FANTASTIC MAN
11 CRYING LADIES
12 MALIKMATA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8593894

1 MALIKMATA
2 CRYING LADIES
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL
4 MANO PO 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 MANO PO 2
2 CAPTAIN BARBELL
3 CRYING LADIES
4 FANTASTIC MAN

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 CRYING LADIES
10:45 FS/12:15 MF/2:40/5:05/7:30/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:55 END

2 MANO PO 2
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/2:00/4:40/7:20/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:10 END

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1 HOMECOMING 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 THX
4 MALIKMATA 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
2 MANO PO 2 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
5 FANTASTIC MAN 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
6 FILIPINAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 CRYING LADIES 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6.55, 9:30
9 FILIPINAS 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
8 MALIKMATA 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
10 CRYING LADIES 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00, 12:00

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1 MANO PO 2 - 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
2 FANTASTIC MAN - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
3 FILIPINAS - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
4 MALIKMATA - 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 9:50
5 CAPTAIN BARBEL - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
6 HOMECOMING - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
7 CRYING LADIES - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1 MALIKMATA
2 HOMECOMING
3 MANO PO 2
4 FILIPINAS
5 CRYING LADIES
6 CAPTAIN BARBELL
7 FANTASTIC MAN
8 FILIPINAS

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 FANTASTIC MAN
2 FILIPINAS
3 MALIKMATA
4 CRYING LADIES
5 CAPTAIN BARBELL
6 MANO PO 2
7 HOMECOMING
8 MANO PO 2

Cainta
Brgy. Sto Domingo Ortigas Extension

1 MALIKMATA
2 CRYING LADIES
3 CAPTAIN BARBELL
4 FANTASTIC MAN

Malabon
289-0985/2575

1 CAPTAIN BARBELL
2 CRYING LADIES
3 MALIKMATA
4 FILIPINAS

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas (043)757-3064/312-5870
FANTASTIC MAN	1	MANO PO 2
FILIPINAS	2	FILIPINAS
MALIKMATA	3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
CRYING LADIES	4	FANTASTIC MAN
CAPTAIN BARBELL	5	MALIKMATA

Dasmariñas		Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
MANO PO 2	1	FANTASTIC MAN
HOMECOMING	2	CAPTAIN BARBELL
FANTASTIC MAN	3	CRYING LADIES
CAPTAIN BARBELL	4	MANO PO 2
MALIKMATA	5	FILIPINAS
	6	HOMECOMING

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MANO PO 2	1	MANO PO 2
FILIPINAS	2	FILIPINAS
CAPTAIN BARBELL	3	CAPTAIN BARBELL
FANTASTIC MAN	4	FANTASTIC MAN
MALIKMATA	5	MALIKMATA
ELF	6	CRYING LADIES

Star Mills
Sn Fernando Pampanga
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1 FANTASTIC MAN
2 CAPTAIN BARBELL
3 FILIPINAS
4 MALIKMATA
5 CRYING LADIES
6 MANO PO 2

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This movie contains scary scenes that may not be suitable for very young viewers. parental guidance is proposed.
MARVIN AGUSTIN
DINGDONG DANTES
RICKY DAVAO
WOWIE DE GUZMAN
ANNA CAPRI
NIKKI VALDEZ
AND
MS. BARBARA PEREZ
RICA PERALEJO
MALIKMATA
HANDA KA NA BANG MATAKOT?
DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES dgpi
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM OCTOARTS - ORBIT MUSIC
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003

NOW SHOWING!
THE BIGGEST FANTASY • COMEDY MOVIE OF THE YEAR
ANG PABORITONG SUPERHERO NG BAYAN
MTRCB ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
ARA MINA
MICHAEL V.
ZOREN LEGASPI
LEO MARTINEZ
DANICA SOTTO
INTRODUCING
ALICIA MAYER
VIC SOTTO
FANTASTIC MAN
DIRECTED BY
TONY Y. REYES, DGPI
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM OCTOARTS - ORBIT MUSIC

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents A WORLD CLASS FILM
HOMECOMING
ASTONISHING IN ITS SIMPLICITY YET AWE-INSPIRING IN ITS COMPLEXITY.
MTRCB RATING PG-13
THE FILM MERITS AN ENTHUSIASTIC COMMENDATION. IT WILL MOST ASSUREDLY BE TALKED ABOUT AND DEBATED ABOUT.
WONDERFULLY STAGED AMONG THE BEST THIS YEAR
HER JOURNEY BEGINS WHEN SHE RETURNS...
ELIZABETH OROPESA AND ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
A FILM BY GIL M. PORTES
An OFFICIAL ENTRY to the 2003 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
NOW SHOWING

Foreign talents in local productions

ARGENTINIAN actor **Segundo Cernadas** has been in the country for some weeks now, taping the new GMA telenovela, "Te Amo." Segundo's participation in the show is deemed unique, and if it's successful, it could lead to more foreign stars being enticed to work on local TV and movie projects.

This makes sense, especially since some Filipino networks are aiming to make shows and TV movies that can be sold abroad. The presence of foreign stars can help in this regard, because viewers in foreign TV territories would be given characters with whom they could more readily empathize.

Local entertainment history provides other instances of "imported" stars getting involved in local productions: In the 1950s, fresh-faced American beauty **Joan Page** co-starred in a number of Sampaguita Pictures productions. **Nikki Ross**, a White Russian who grew up in the Philippines, established herself as a peppy singer and comedienne in local movies and TV shows.

Even **Nora Aunor** had an American leading man, **Don Johnson**, in a film she shot in the States. This was when Johnson was just trying to make it in Hollywood, so it was prescient of the movie's makers to have tapped him, rather than another young male hopeful, because Johnson turned out to be a major find whose stock as a TV and film star rose impressively in succeeding years.

Chiquito also made a movie in the US, and he had scenes with **Mamie Van Doren**, a sexy Hollywood star known for her overly vital statistics.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

When the Miss Universe beauty tilt was first held here, a number of the finalists went on to co-star in local productions. Chiquito once again co-starred with a blonde beauty, **Johanna Raunio**, who played a mermaid in a Premiere production.

Miss Universe **Amparo Muñoz** and Miss Wales **Helen Morgan** also acted in local

FOREIGN/ A24

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MANO PO 2
Ali 2	FILIPINAS
Ali 3	CAPTAIN BARBEL
Ali 4	CRYING LADIES
Ali 5	MALIKMATA
Ali 6	FANTASTIC MAN
Ali 7	HOMECOMING

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DEC 30	DISNEY ON ICE - 1PM / 4:30PM / 8PM
JAN 1	DISNEY ON ICE - 4:30PM / 8 PM
JAN 2	DISNEY ON ICE - 4:30PM / 8 PM
JAN 3	DISNEY ON ICE - 1PM / 4:30PM / 8PM
JAN 4	DISNEY ON ICE - 1PM / 4:30PM / 8PM

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALIPIN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LIBERATED
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIKTIMA
CINEMA-2	ALIPIN
CINEMA-3	WAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 1
CINEMA-6	CHAVIT
CINEMA-7	BABAE SA BREAKWATER
CINEMA-8	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LOST ISLAND
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORDS OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR RUNNER
CINEMA-12	CABIN FEVER
CINEMA-14	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
CINEMA-15	ELF
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	OUT OF TIME
CINEMA-1	JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
CINEMA-2	FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS
CINEMA-4	COLD CREEK MANOR
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003
OPENS JANUARY 1 !

LAUGH AND HAVE FUN !
BE HAPPY THIS NEW YEAR !

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CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ RODEL VELAYO
BOOTS ANSON ROA GINA PAREÑO
ALFRED VARGAS DOUGLAS ROBINSON JUANCHO VALENTINO

Bridal Shower

directed by JEFFREY JETURIAN

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Aiko Melendez • Victor Neri • Wendell Ramos
Raymond Bagatsing • Andrea del Rosario • Sunshine Dizon
Tanya Garcia • Anne Curtis • Mikel Campos
and Armida Siguion-Reyna
introducing
Sarah Geronimo

Filipinas
Pelikula ni Joel Lamangan

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	**MANO PO 2** 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 **GP**	
CINEMA 2	**HOMECOMING** 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 **PG 13**	

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

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POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOMECOMING **PG13** 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	**FANTASTIKMAN** **GP** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	**MANO PO 2** **GP** 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
CRYING LADIES **PG13** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	**MALIKMATA** **PG13** 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	**FILIPINAS** **GP** 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MANO PO 2	1 MANO PO 2	ArtFilm 1 FANTASTIC MAN 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 MANO PO 2 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30	THX 1 MALIKMATA
2 FANTASTIC MAN	2 HOMECOMING	2 MALIKMATA 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 HOMECOMING 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	2 CRYING LADIES
3 MALIKMATA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 FANTASTIC MAN 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	Onstage GLOW Dec. 29 & 30 - 8 pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FILIPINAS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 FANTASTIC MAN
4 CAPTAIN BARBEL	4 FILIPINAS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CAPTAIN BARBEL 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 CAPTAIN BARBEL
	5 MALIKMATA		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HOMECOMING 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	5 HOMECOMING
	6 CRYING LADIES			
	7 CAPTAIN BARBEL			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
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MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DDS)	CAPT. BARBEL
2 (SDDS)	MALIKMATA
3 (DTS)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	HOMECOMING
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MANO PO-2
8 [illegible]	CRYING LADIES
9 [illegible]	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
10 [illegible]	MANO PO-2

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1 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
2 (DOLBY)	MANO PO
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DOLBY)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	MANO PO-2
2	HOMECOMING
3	FANTASTIC MAN

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	CRYING LADIES
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3	FANTASTIC MAN
	CAPT. BARBEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	MANO PO-2
5	

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	MANO PO-2
2	CRYING LADIES
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MALIKMATA
6	CAPT BARBEL

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	CAPT BARBEL

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
LUCASFILM THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MANO PO
2	FANTASTIC MAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	CRYING LADIES
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5	MALIKMATA
6	CAPT. BARBEL
7 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES
8 (SDDS)	FANTASTIC MAN
9 (DOLBY)	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	MANO PO-2
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (SDDS)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MALIKMATA
6 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
7 (DTS)	CAPT. BARBEL
8	CRYING LADIES
9	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2 (SDDS)	HOMECOMING
3 (DTS)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DOLBY)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	MANO PO-2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	CRYING LADIES
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3 (DTS)	CAPT. BARBEL
4	MANO PO-2
5 (DOLBY)	MALIKMATA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
Lords	FANTASTIC MAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA
3	CRYING LADIES
4	CAPT BARBEL

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MANO PO-2
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	MALIKMATA
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
5	FANTASTIC MAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

1	MANO PO-2
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAPT. BARBEL
4 (SDDS)	CRYING LADIES
5 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
6	FANTASTIC MAN
7	HOMECOMING
8	
9	

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	FANTASTIC MAN
2	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
3 (DTS EX)	MANO PO-2
4	CAPT BARBEL

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MANO PO-2
2	CRYING LADIES
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DTS)	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	MANO PO-2
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4	MANO PO 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2 (DOLBY)	CRYING LADIES
3 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
4	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	MANO PO-2
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3 (DOLBY)	MALIKMATA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	MALIKMATA
2	CAPTAIN BARBEL
3 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel)

1	SOON TO OPEN
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	MANO PO 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MALIKMATA
2	FANTASTIC MAN
3	HOMECOMING
4 (DTS)	MANO PO-2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	CAPT. BARBEL
2	CRYING LADIES
3 (DTS)	MALIKMATA
4	MANO PO-2
5	FANTASTIC MAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FANTASTIC MAN
2	HOMECOMING

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2	MALIKMATA
3	HOMECOMING

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CAPT. BARBEL
2	MANO PO-2
3 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES
4 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC MAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	CRYING LADIES

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	CAPT. BARBEL
3	MANO PO 2
4	FANTASTIC MAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	FILIPINAS KONG MAHAL
2	MALIKMATA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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FOR INQUIRIES, CALL [illegible]

Foreign talents in local productions

From page A23

movies. Later, Ms Muñoz became a film star in Spain.

After the second time that the Miss Universe contest was held in Manila, **Michelle Van Eimeren** (Miss Australia) became very busy with TV and movie projects here, aside from getting married to **Ogie Alcasid**.

Our National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, **Eddie Romero**, has had a lot of experience working with American actors in movies shot in the Philippines—among them **Jack Nicholson**, **Timothy Bottoms** and **Pam Grier**.

Barbara Perez co-starred with **Jeffrey Hunter** in "No Man Is An Island," which was also filmed in the Philippines.

And, of course, we're looking forward to **Lou Diamond Phillips**' new production, which he says will be shot here next year. It is intended to focus on a Fil-Am singer's search for his roots and identity, and should thus help focus international attention on local lifestyles, conflicts and issues.

'Banta'

ABS-CBN screens its 2003 year-ender, "Banta at Paghamon" at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 28. The news special is anchored by **Dong Puno** and **Tina Monzon-Palma**.

The special deviates from the usual chronological recounting or thematic rundown of the year's news highlights. Since elections will be held next year, viewers need to be enlightened about the significant events and choices that shape the nation's economic and political future. So, "Banta at Paghamon" seeks to provide this perspective on the events that helped define 2003.

Elements include terrorism, scandals, the breakdown of institutions, the economy, health and the environment, achievers and prime movers in different fields, and the "presidentiables" and what they stand for.

'Disney on Ice' on TV

IBC-13's New Year's Eve special (Dec. 31, 8 p.m.) focuses on "Disney on Ice." VJ Iya takes viewers behind the scenes, provides a bit of Disney history, introduces the characters in "Beauty and the Beast," and interviews two Fil-Am skaters in the cast.

This special will be followed at 11 p.m. by IBC's news and public affairs department's year-end report, "Trese sa Trese," zeroing in on the top 13 stories of 2003. Atty. **Ranato Bello III** hosts the news special.

'Original Sin'

AT 9 p.m. on Dec. 30, Star Movies screens "Original Sin," starring **Angelina Jolie** and **Antonio Banderas**. In the film, the stars play husband and wife.

When she disappears with his money, he is forced to look into her past and discovers that she's been accused of a brutal murder. He sets off to find her—but is he capable of playing her deadly game?

"Original Sin" will be replayed at 9:45 a.m. on Dec. 31.

2 more films open Jan. 1

By Nini Valera

THE TWO Metro Manila Film Festival entries that will be shown starting Jan. 1 are Seiko Films' "Bridal Shower" and MAQ Films' "Gagamboy."

Their opening a week after the festival started does not mean that they are inferior to the first seven movies, which opened on Christmas Day in Metro Manila theaters and in other key cities nationwide.

"Bridal Shower," Seiko Films, director Jeffrey Jeturian, and writer Cris Martinez.

Cast: Dina Bonnevie, Cherie Pie Picache, Francine Prieto, Christian Vasquez and other male newcomers.

Concept: "Ally McBeal" meets "Sex in the City."

In search of true love, three advertising women look for Mr. Goodbar. Cherie Pie finds hers, a macho dancer, in a gay bar. Dina has been working and paying for the annulment of the marriage of the man with whom she has been having a longtime affair. Francine gets pregnant and does not know who the father is: an Alabang boy or a *jologs* community denizen.

The simple plot line of girl meets boy and gets boy is enlivened by crisp, crackling prose and out-of-the-box visuals that only a crazed copywriter from an advertising agency can think off, and a high-concept movie that only a talented director can pull off.

Context: Love as a commodity.

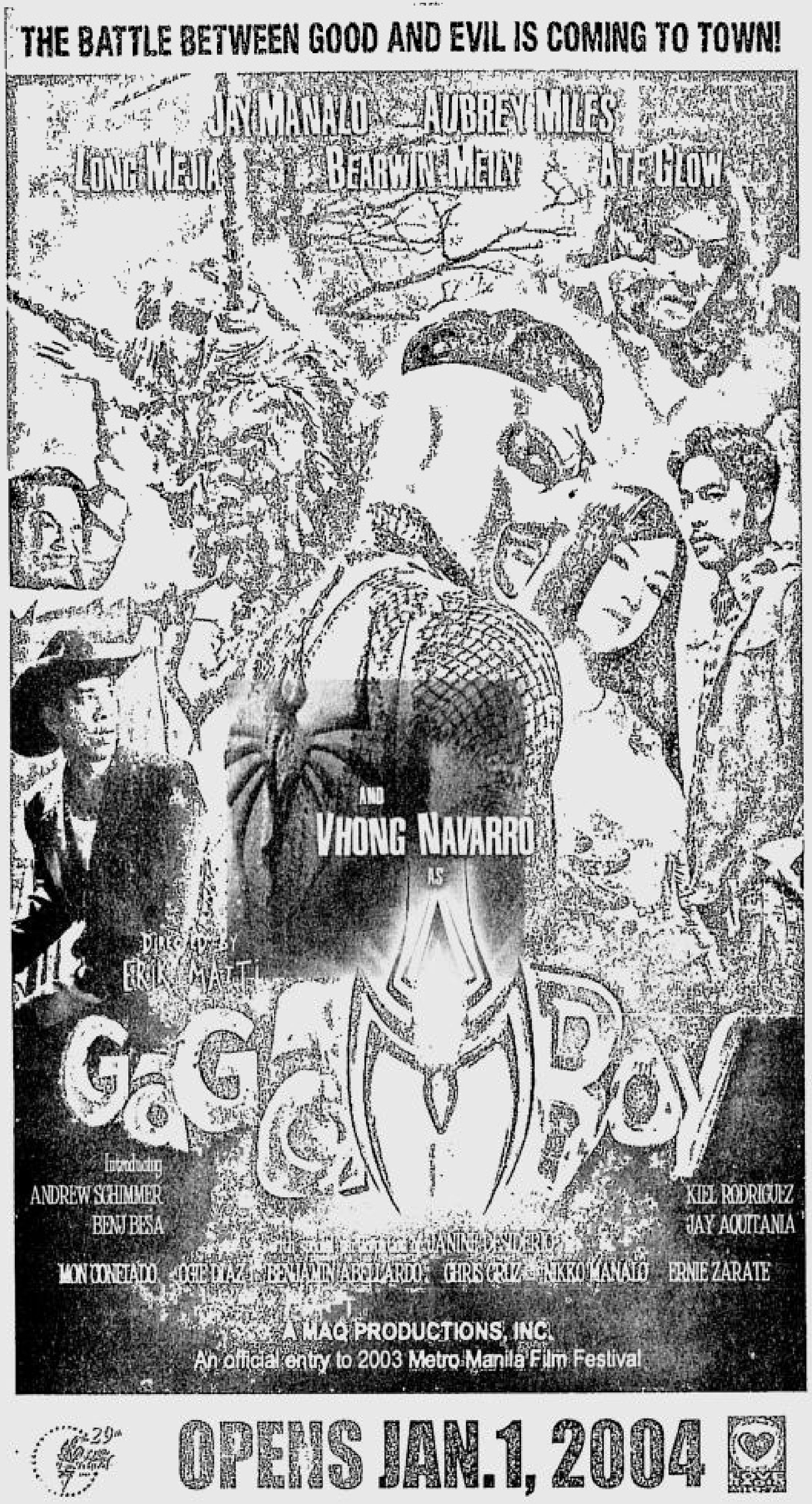
"Gagamboy," MAQ Films, director Eric Matti, and screenplay by Dwight Gaston.

Cast: Vhong Navarro, Jay Manalo, Aubrey Miles, Ate Glow.

Concept: Spider-man meets Cockroach dude.

Wimpy Vhong Navarro and hunk Jay Manalo are both after sexpot Aubrey Miles. The plot thickens when Vhong acquires super powers after he ingests a spider. Jay also swallows a cockroach and gets similar super

2 MORE/ A25


THE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IS COMING TO TOWN!

JAY MANALO AUBREY MILES
LONG MEJIA BEARWIN MEILY ATE GLOW
AND VHONG NAVARRO AS
DIRECTED BY ERIK MATTI
GAGAMBOY
Introducing ANDREW SCHIMMER BENJ BESA
KIEL RODRIGUEZ JAY AQUITANIA
MON CONFIADO OGIE DIAZ BENJAMIN ABELLARDO CHRIS CRUZ NIKKO MANALO ERNIE ZARATE
A MAQ PRODUCTIONS, INC.
An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival

OPENS JAN.1, 2004

THE EPIC TRADITION CONTINUES
When there is love, a family comes together.

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CHRISTOPHER DE LEON LORNA TOLENTINO ZSA ZSA PADILLA KRIS AQUINO JUDY ANN SANTOS CARMINA VILLARROEL
COCO MARTIN RICHARD GUTIERREZ ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI KARYLLE CHYNNA ORTALEZA

Mano Po 2
MY HOME

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A Regal Entertainment Inc., An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival
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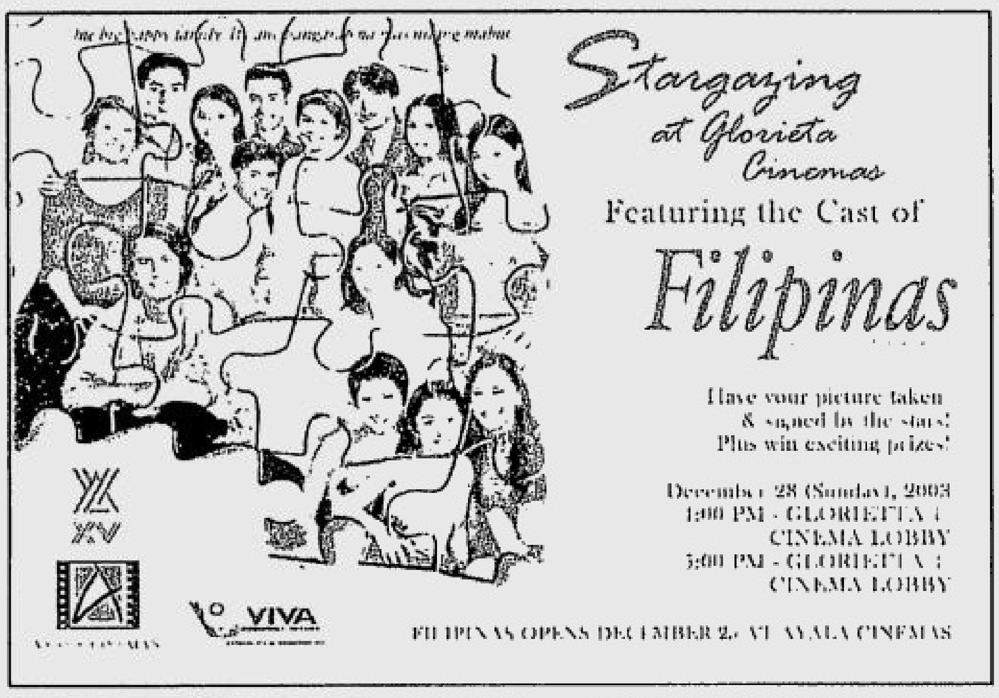
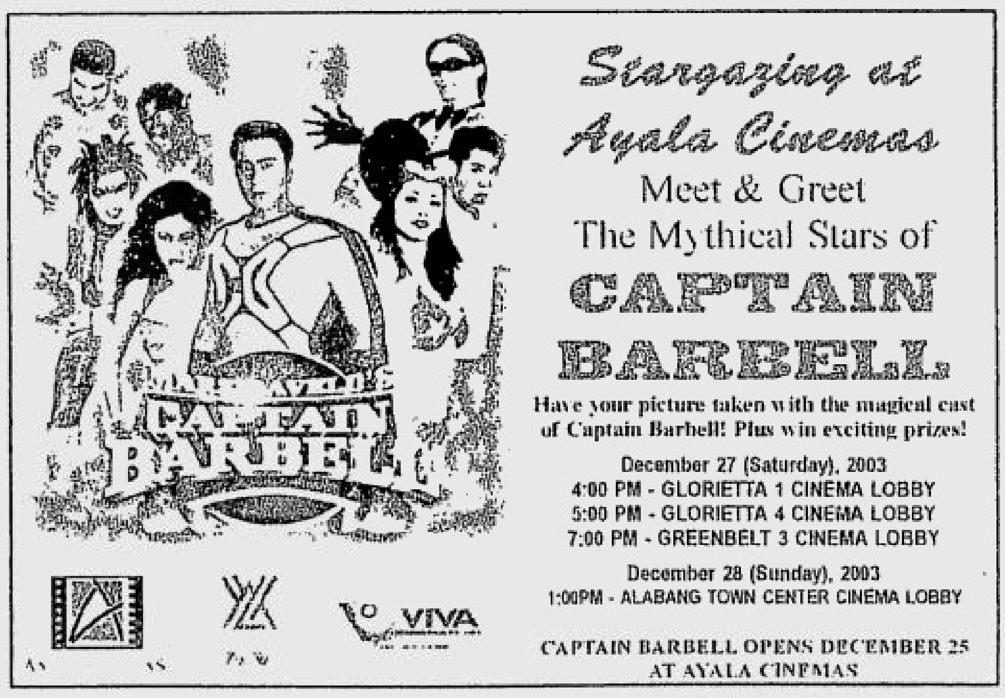

Stargazing at Glorieta Cinemas
Featuring the Cast of
Filipinas

Have your picture taken & signed by the stars! Plus win exciting prizes!

December 28 (Sunday), 2003
1:00 PM - GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY
5:00 PM - GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA LOBBY

VIVA

FILIPINAS OPENS DECEMBER 25 AT AYALA CINEMAS


Stargazing at Ayala Cinemas
Meet & Greet
The Mythical Stars of
CAPTAIN BARBELL

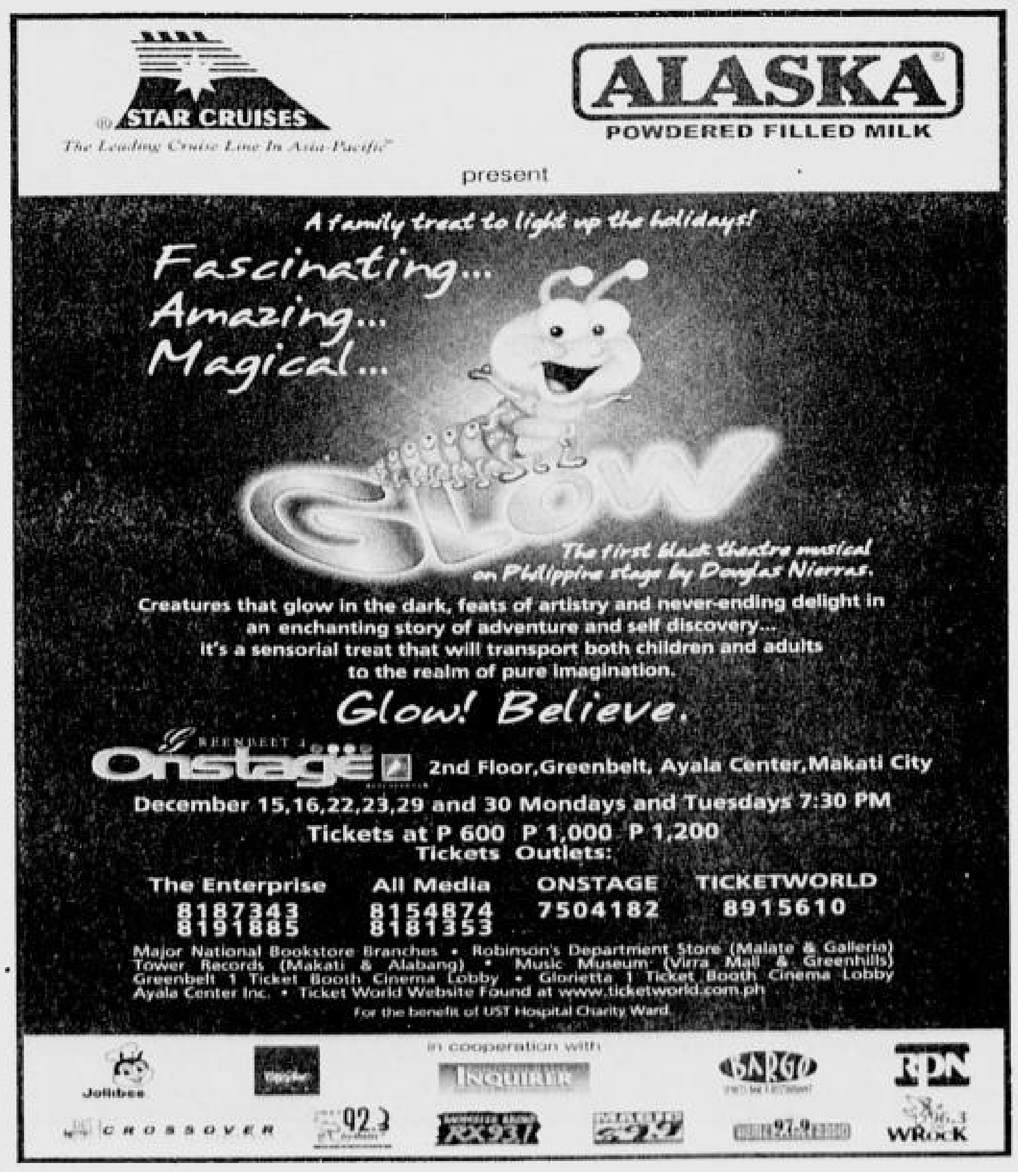
Have your picture taken with the magical cast of Captain Barbell! Plus win exciting prizes!

December 27 (Saturday), 2003
4:00 PM - GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY
5:00 PM - GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA LOBBY
7:00 PM - GREENBELT 3 CINEMA LOBBY

December 28 (Sunday), 2003
1:00PM - ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMA LOBBY

VIVA

CAPTAIN BARBELL OPENS DECEMBER 25 AT AYALA CINEMAS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The first black theatre musical on Philippine stage by Douglas Nierras.

Creatures that glow in the dark, feats of artistry and never-ending delight in an enchanting story of adventure and self discovery...
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Glow! Believe.

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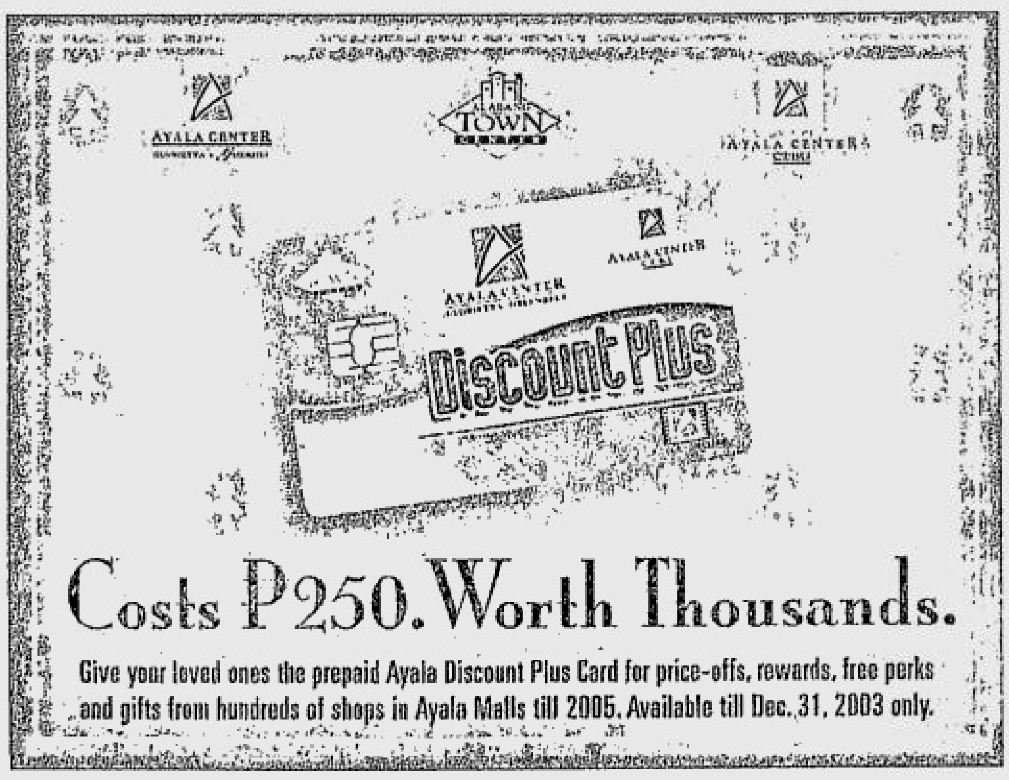
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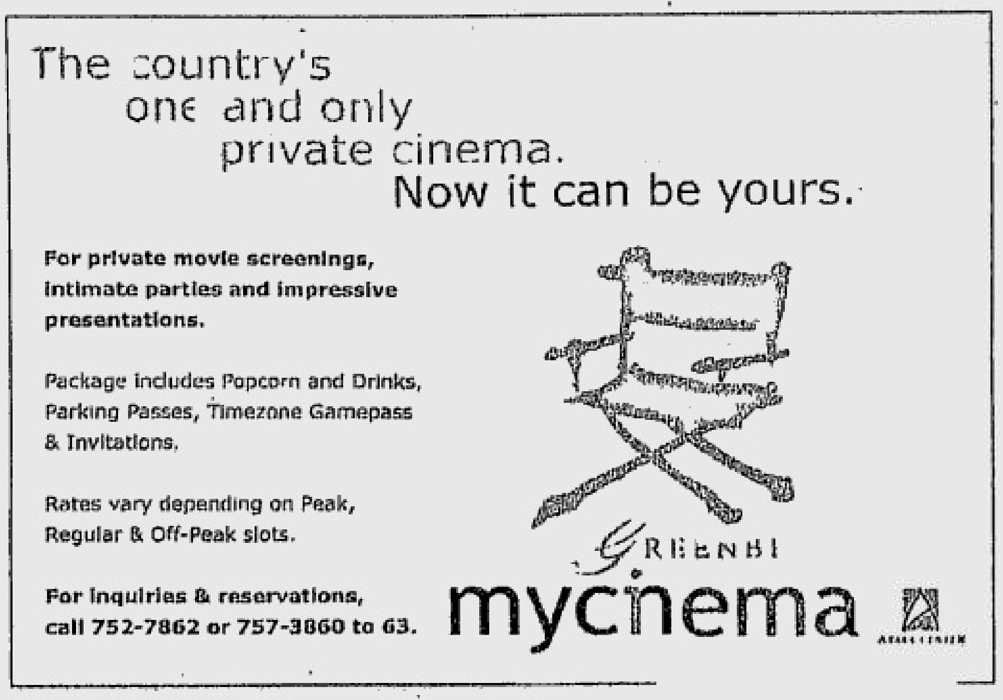
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Greenbelt mycinema

The power of show biz

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

OVER at Yes!, I make sure I read all the mail that comes in myself, both those that proudly announce who the letter senders are and the stars they're crazy about, and those that shyly request that their identities be kept hidden and ask, just as shyly, to have their message sent to their idols.

It's a lesson in how the other half lives.

It's as well a reminder that there's no business like show business.

Show biz is, to them, not just entertainment they can take or leave, nor just escapist stuff they need to clear the debris of their lives with—because that would mean show biz isn't part of their lives and isn't what they're about. (It is, on both counts.)

Neither is it, to them, tangential stuff they bother with only on prime time and set aside the rest of the day to attend to proper concerns, nor is it something to simply fill their empty hours with—because that would mean they have concerns they deem more urgent and have the luxury of empty hours at all. (They don't, on both counts.)

Show biz, to our readers, is a capital concern, and every time is a good time for it. It's their life! It makes their day, makes for table talk, makes for peace. Without it, I trust there might've been a revolution by now.

True, show biz is all of a piece with celebrity culture. Yes, it has a lot to do with media. And right, it is both mirror and panacea. But lest we turn too facile for our own good, I say we let the letters tell us the lay of the land.

Fan letters

Our own letters say the senders feel a real connection with the stars. They believe the screen personalities they love are the nicest and sweetest things, and, even better, love them right back.

The Sharonians follow the Mega Star's every career and personal move, with one *barkada* of fans actually following her to her provincial sets and a Hong Kong gig, and all the fans spilling their devotion ever so naturally to Sharon's lovely KC.

The Maricelians are the same. In the latest Yes! Readers Choice Awards, one fan, a student, singlehandedly mustered 36,000 votes for the Diamond Star, by organizing an on-line campaign to OFWs she figured would be Maricel diehards. She did it. She helped dethrone last year's winner Sharon, and helped install Marya as the Yes! top female star for 2003.

Don't knock it. The stars mean something to them. They don't want their stars losing in contests; they don't want their idols written about badly. And all a star has to do is show she's displeased with someone, and they go to war for her.

Those occasions we, at Yes!, attempted to say their idols are false some of the time, we got hell. Especially when they've already sworn their allegiance to the star, they stick it out. Loyalty and longevity count here. See how the word "original" always appears in the streamers of fan clubs, and note how the snobberies in the fan kingdom have to do with who was with the star first.

Fanaticism

Fanhood has nothing to do with reason or proof or even common sense. (Why do you think it's called fanaticism?) Always, the image show biz spins is what sells as real: The *bida* must be a good person in real life. See how the flip side to this is that no fan is heard screaming his affection for the *kontrabida*, even when the last may actually be a better actor, a better dresser, and maybe even a better person.

Moreover, so total is fan devotion that things can get very ugly in a minute.

Janice fans speak only in the superlatives about her, calling her smart and loving and totally above her philandering and juvenile husband. John fans speak only with kindness about him, saying he's a good provider and a funny guy who simply got into the wrong partnership. And just as there's no meeting between the two, so is there no meeting between the two camps.

I remember that we had Claudine rooters, at the time the star was appearing with Piolo, kick Juday around, saying things like Claudine was prettier and Juday wasn't even as pretty as Piolo. Of course, this turned Juday diehards apoplectic, and started a tit-for-tat battle in our feedback section that threatened to shut out all other letter writers.

To this day, I believe that the two camps hate each other's guts.

They're everywhere

Distance is no object. We have both snail mail and electronic mail from everywhere—Canada, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand—just writing in to say they're still devoted to Vilma, Nora, Aga.

One Aga devotee actually calls—not for her the cheap text or fax—from HK, where she is a DH, any time she has something to say about him. Like, Why don't we have Aga on the cover more? Don't we know that there are hundreds like her just waiting? Don't we know that the last thing she does before she sleeps is stare at the wedding photos of Aga and Charlene? Just knowing that Aga is in a blissful state tells her the world is all right, she says.

And we believe her. Just as we believe the boy who wrote us recently from the province, who said he wasn't with family, he had no friends, and he kept to himself. But he wasn't lonely, he said. Because every time he saw Marvin Agustin goofing around with the other young ones on TV, he felt he was their *barkada*, and that made everything all right.

There is more of the same in those letters.

They talk about a world I only half-understand, speak to me about loyalties and devotions I don't have, for stars I know to be no more and no less human than everyone else, and for celebrities who half the time don't know the rest of us exist.

I'm left with a funny feeling in my stomach and questions in my head. Only good thing is, I now think I actually have answers to them, but the how and what of it, I'm afraid, shall have to wait for another Sunday, when I'm brave enough to tell it as it is.

Till then, Happy New Year!

JANICE DE BELEN

SHARON CUNETA

JUDY ANN SANTOS

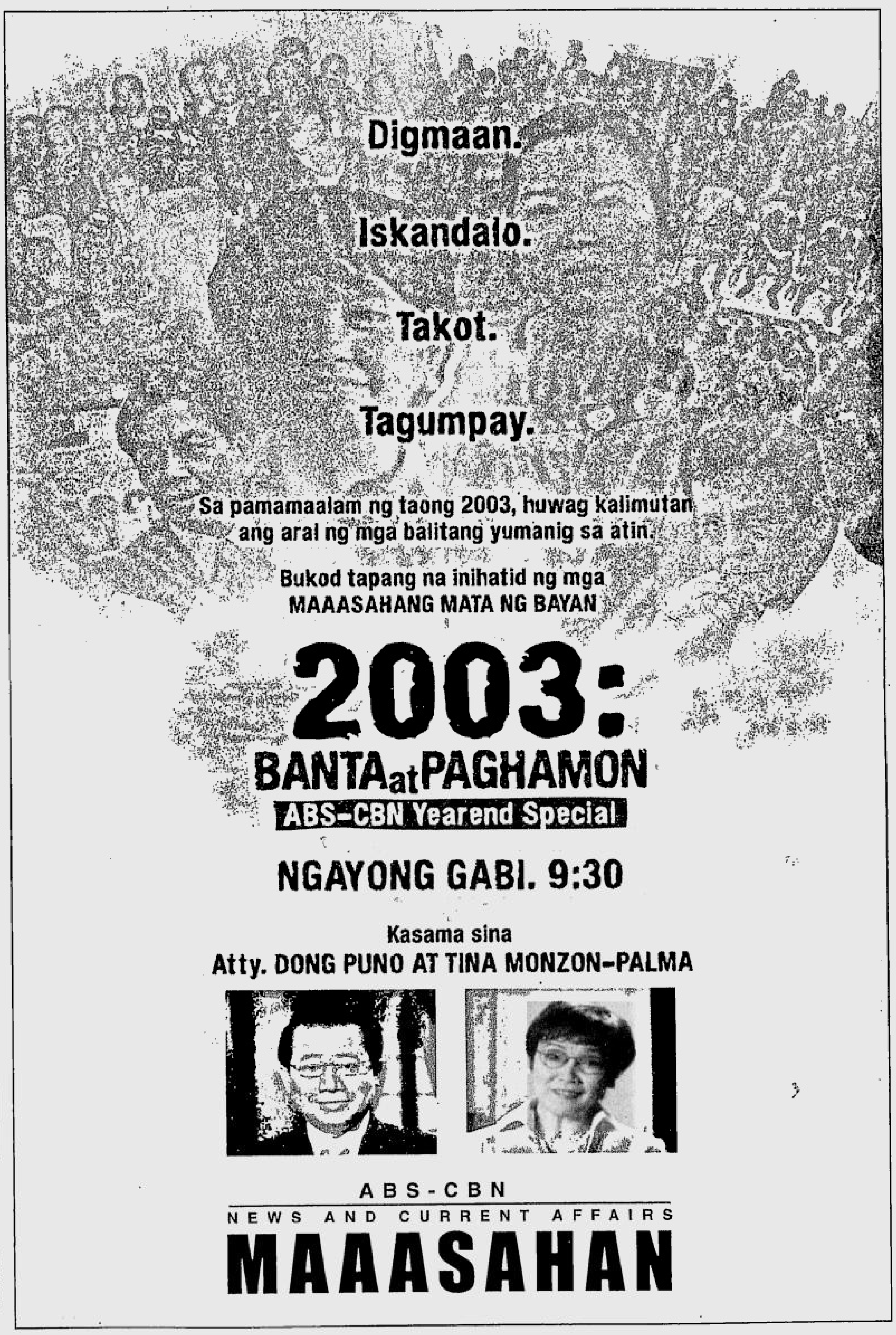
DID YOU KNOW...

Shoppers and plain mallers had a starry, starry Friday afternoon at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City. **Gretchen Barretto** and **Tonyboy Cojuangco**, accompanied by bodyguards, were seen emerging from the cineplex after watching "Crying Ladies." Also seen were **Randy Santiago** and brother **Rowel Santiago** with Raymart's girlfriend and Gretchen's younger sister, **Claudine Barretto**, and the rest of the Santiago family, and also **Raymond Bagatsing**.

2 more films...

From page A24

powers, which he uses to kidnap Aubrey. But good always triumphs over evil, even if the bad guy wears a fabulous cockroach, costume, reportedly designed in Hollywood by the same guys who did the ape costumes in "Planet of the Apes," for a whopping $1,000. And that's only for the fashion sketches.



Digmaan.
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Takot.
Tagumpay.
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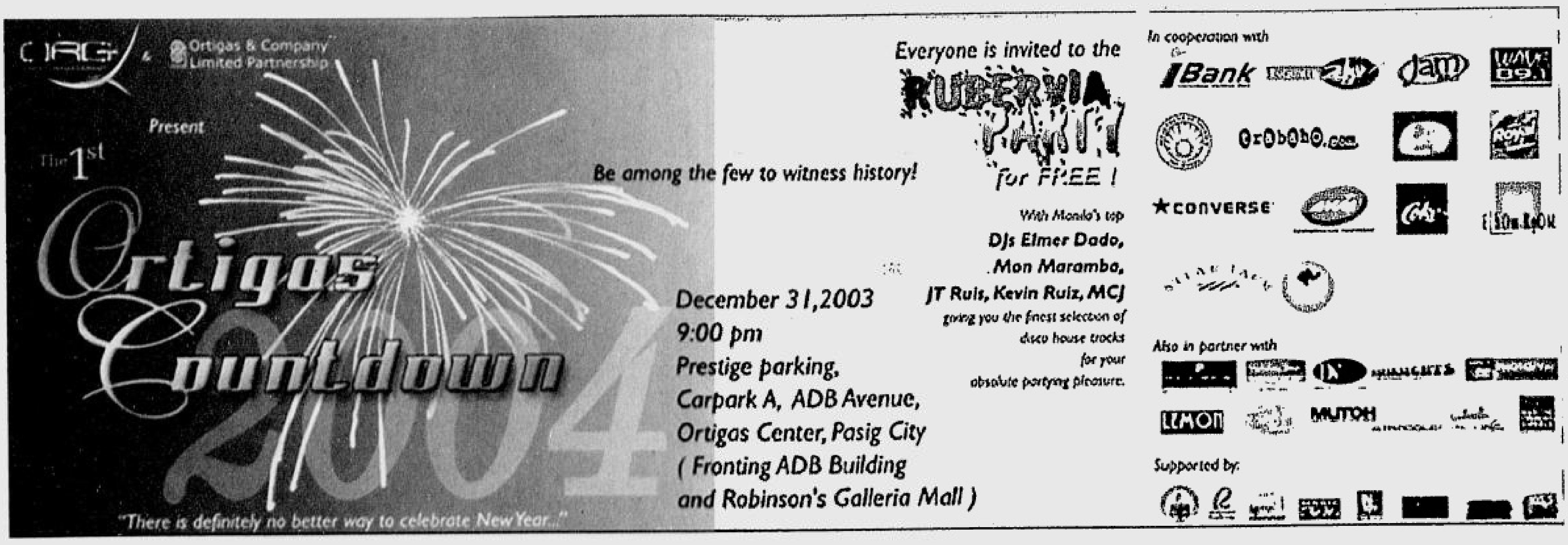
2003: BANTA at PAGHAMON
ABS-CBN Yearend Special
NGAYONG GABI. 9:30
Kasama sina
Atty. DONG PUNO AT TINA MONZON-PALMA
ABS-CBN
NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS
MAAASAHAN



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Be among the few to witness history!
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Everyone is invited to the RUBERVIA PARTY for FREE!
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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

"CAPTAIN" Bong Revilla leads the movie's cast on the "Barbell" float on the film fest's Christmas Eve parade. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Barbell' VS 'Fantastic'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LATE *komiks* novelist Mars Ravelo's fantasy-adventure "Captain Barbell," starring Bong Revilla and Regine Velasquez, was the box-office top-grosser on the Christmas Day opening of the Metro Manila Film Festival in Manila theaters, according to Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo.

Malonzo, who is also the film festival chair, stressed that the opening-day results were based on the returns from SM theaters only.

"We will get the exact figures as soon as other theaters submit their returns," Malonzo told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday. "We also expect an update of the provincial figures today."

As of Friday morning, it was a neck-and-neck fight between Imus Productions' "Captain Barbell" and OctoArts Films' "Fantastic Man," with the former leading by only P500,000, he said.

"Captain Barbell" also features Ogie Alcasid as Enteng, who turns into the superhero played by Bong Revilla; Regine as Darna, and Albert Martinez as the villain Lagablab.

"It really does not matter to me who earned more on Christmas Day," said Bong during Friday's victory party for the movie's cast in a Quezon City restaurant. "*Ang importante parehong kumita*. I think it's better if we call it a tie."

In 2002, OctoArts teamed up with M-Zet Films to produce one of last year's top-grossing festival movies, "Lastikman." In this year's "Fantastic Man," lead star Vic Sotto ditches the dark blue-and-white suit of Lastikman and wears a more vivid magenta and mustard costume. The movie also stars Ara Mina, Michael V and Jeffrey Quizon.

Regal Films' period drama "Mano Po 2," starring Susan Roces and Lorna Tolentino among others, came in third on opening day. It was closely followed by Unitel Pictures' "Crying Ladies," starring Sharon Cuneta, Hilda Koronel and Angel Aquino.

But it is also a close fight between Regal and Unitel in the No. 3 and No. 4 spots, with a difference of only P1,000 or P2,000, said a film fest official who refused to be identified.

"But this is only based on the number of people lining up outside the theaters," the film fest official said. "We have yet to come up with the exact figure."

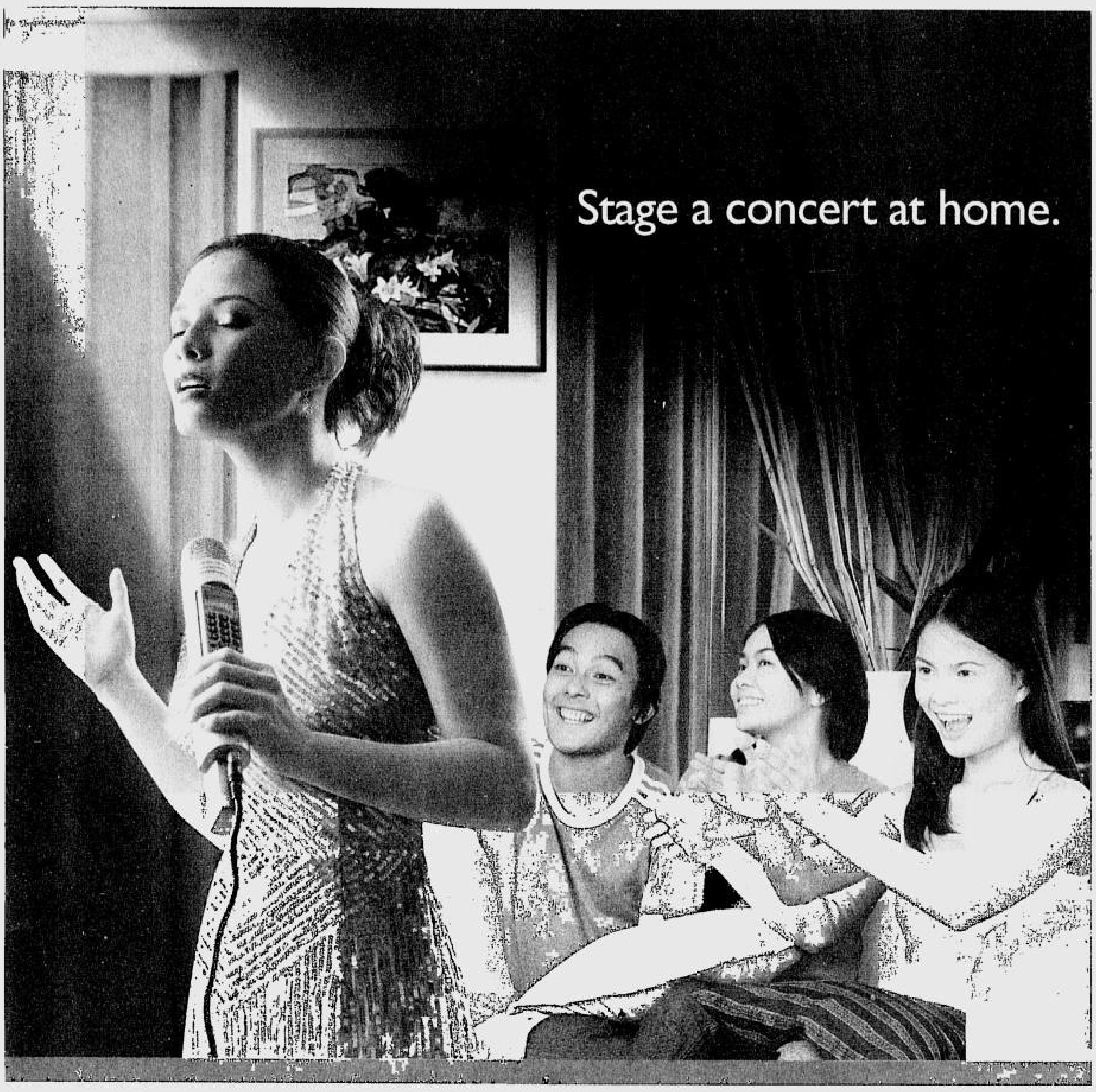
The official added that Canary Films' suspense-thriller "Malikmata" is "very close" in fifth place.

Malonzo, as well as the other film fest official, refused to reveal which movie landed in the sixth and seventh places.

The two other festival movies are Viva Films' "Filipinas" and Teamwork Productions' "Homecoming."

Film festival insiders said "Filipinas" ranked No. 6 and "Homecoming" No. 7 on opening day.

According to festival rules, the two movies that earned the least after a week will be replaced in theaters by the two others—Jeffrey Jeturian's "Bridal Shower" from Seiko Films and Erik Matti's "Gagamboy" from MAQ Films.



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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

First female finance head is no stranger to the job

By Clarissa S. Batino

JUANITA Amatong, the recently-appointed finance secretary is nothing like her predecessor.

She is not an investment banker nor is she popular among market players. She flares up when upset and is impatient for results.

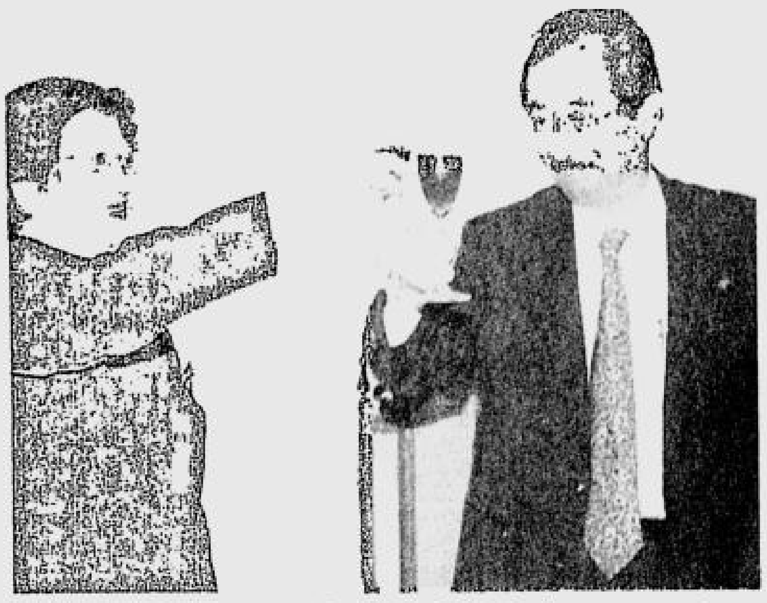
Years in the bureaucracy have prepared her for the thankless job she has been quietly doing. Frustrations in public service, for her, is part of the hazards of the vocation she has chosen.

Amatong is the 40th secretary of the Department of Finance. She is the first female head of the DOF.

A member of the elite group of the Philippines' "First 100 Women," the Finance Chief received the citation during the country's centennial celebration for being the first woman executive director of the World Bank Group for an eight-country constituency.

"I may be a strange face to the market but I am no stranger to the job. They have to test me and I can prove that I am capable and experienced," says the reluctant finance chief.

She is the anointed successor of Jose Isidro N. Camacho, who left the government prematurely in November due to frustrations with a politics he never learned to unravel and exhaustion from a job that exposed him and his family to unwanted and unwarranted attention.



FINANCE Secretary Juanita Amatong during the loan agreement signing and exchange of document at DOF with Keiichi Tango of Japan.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Never desired

Amatong says she was in Cebu attending a conference when she received a phone call from her former boss, advising of his decision to leave and to foist on her what she claimed were responsibilities and a position she never sought.

"It is a job I never desired because I am happy working in the background. This early, I already miss a lot of things that I used to do, especially the technical work," says the three-week-old finance chief, who adds that she now has to rely on others to do the number-crunching for her.

First job

Amatong started working for the Finance Department in 1971 as a senior analyst.

Back then, the finance and monetary functions were still intertwined and she was concurrently the executive assistant of then Prime Minister and Monetary Board Member Cesar Virata.

Her first job was as an associate professor at Silliman University in Dumaguete from 1959 to 1969. She finished her BS Business Administration from the same university in 1955.

She gained experience as a tax economist of the International Monetary Fund from 1963 to 1968.

She pursued her MA in Economic and Public Service from the Syracuse University in New York.

Amatong trotted DOF and Central Bank assignments from 1971 to 1984. In 1986, she became assistant secretary at the DOF and was then appointed as undersecretary in 1992.

She left the DOF in 1985 to join the World Bank until late 1998, where she became the executive director of an eight-country constituency that included the Philippines. She worked with the private sector for a while before agreeing to go back as Finance Undersecretary in March 2001.

Not a banker

"I am not a banker because my experience had been with public finance. I admit that Lito's shoes were too big for me to fill in the area of banking. But maybe, what the DOF needs is a public finance person," says Amatong.

It helps that the new finance secretary is married to a politician and hails from a political clan. Amatong's husband, Ernesto, is a former representative of Dipolog City, while her brothers are also in politics in their province in Negros Oriental.

But that doesn't mean she is blind to the debilitating politics that Camacho so shunned.

AMATONG says she has no desire for the post but now faces the challenge.

"There is a problem with the structure. But we have to work with the system and try to achieve our objectives. There are so many important reforms that Congress has to pass and we hope they can be convinced that enacting the crucial measures, particularly the indexation of sin taxes, would be critical to the fiscal program of reducing the budget deficit over time," explains Amatong.

Barely two weeks after leaving the government, Camacho suddenly blurted out that the Philippines was in a fiscal crisis, its level of debt could be unsustainable and that the political system was not equipped to

FIRST/ B2

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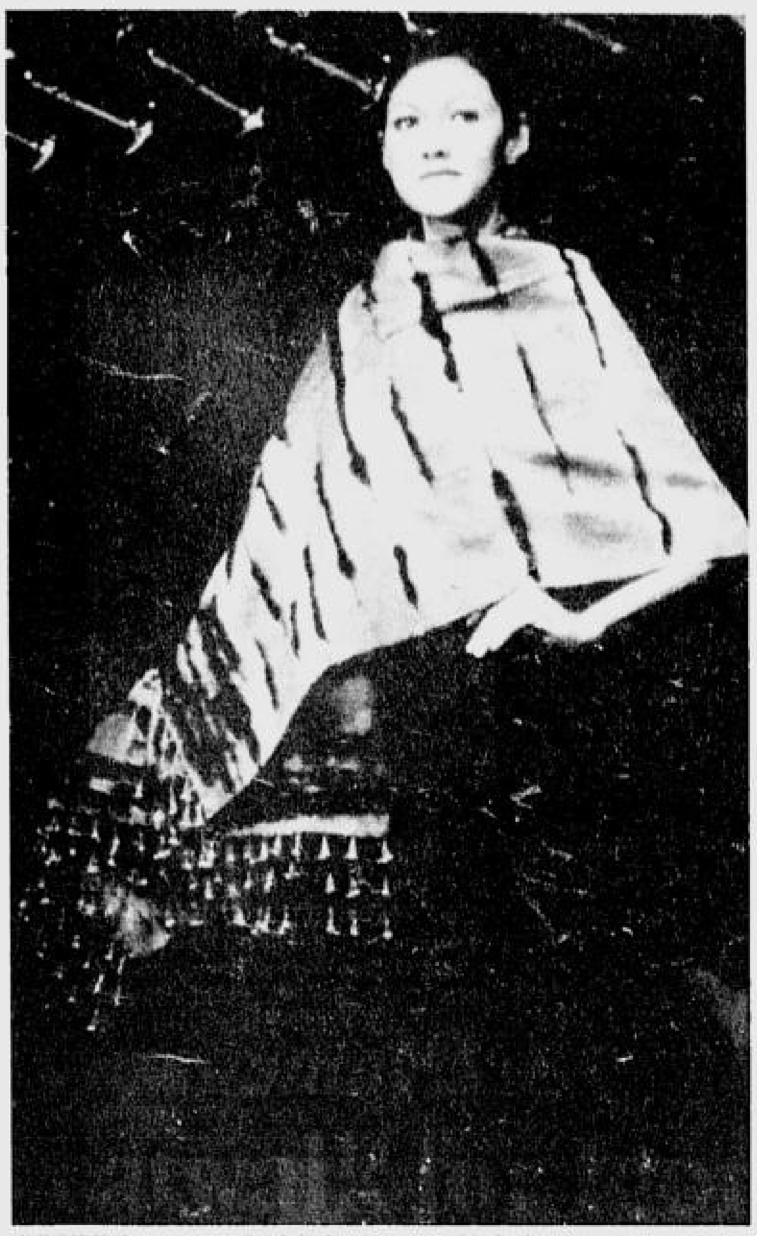
Narda's back; hits catwalk for Igorot crafts abroad



FUTURE shows are scheduled in Japan and in Italy.

NARDA Capuyan and model at the Petronas Towers in October where she displayed her new creations at the Eco-fiber and Textile Forum.

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—After a 15-year absence, fabric ingenue Narda Capuyan is hitting the Asian and European catwalks again.

Bearing lighter, brighter versions of her indigenous Filipino woven fabrics, Narda cut her treasures into 21st century party dresses, trimmed them with indigenous mountain crystals and displayed her new creations before the World Eco-fiber and Textile Forum in October at the Petronas Towers in Malaysia. She is scheduled for future shows in Japan and in Italy.

Capuyan, a multi-awarded exporter, has labeled her new product line "Arts-for-Wear," and is forging ahead with golden and dusk-colored patterned fabrics—a rather extreme antithesis to the subtle pastels and resplendent earth tones that characterized Narda's line of fabrics in 1982.

Capuyan is also tapping into New Age philosophy by sampling spirit crystals that evoke the natural harmonies of indigenous mountain lifestyles.

She bought factory overruns, including mink fur coats, and re-designed them with coconut beads and mountain lake stones for a largely untapped styles market.

The overt garishness and pageantry of her new products are an unusual development for the more subdued indigenous Filipino crafts, she admitted.

Hot Igorot items

But Capuyan has a secret mission for braving the fickle fashion world again.

"Every time I have these shows, I bring along Igorot crafts to show to buyers. It's been decades since Igorot artifacts and crafts were hot items in Europe but I have realized that the world is ready again for our ethnic creations. This is one market we can prosper from now that the country is in crisis," she said.

Capuyan said the niche export demand for native fabrics and crafts stalled in 1989 due to a lack of support from the communities that make and use them.

This former nurse, however, won't be pushing for the international markets without a safety net. This time, she is letting Cordillera communities market their wares abroad, through a new support firm called the Winaca Foundation, using a new label called "Village Link."

Shell awardee

Capuyan is a 1982 Golden Shell awardee for launching an export career on the tensile strength of indigenous *ikat* fiber.

Ikat is an old Ifugao weaving technique that uses a system of tying and dyeing by stages threads that are bound to an indigenous loom.

Capuyan dressed up bags, blankets, scarves, place mats and business suits with ikat. She evolved this venture into mainstream interior design contracts in the last five years.

Her handbags caught the attention of Women's Wear Daily in New York. She managed to break into Bloomingdale's in 1982.

"Between 1983 and 1988, I was getting orders from JC Penney and Hudson's Bay for two million pieces each month. I had 600 workers toiling to make these orders," she says.

Capuyan fueled a new export line when her fabrics helped sell indigenous Bontoc vegetable baskets and Ifugao sculptured trinkets to American, German, French and Japanese stores and malls.

"The best years for the Igorot products were in our (economy's) strongest years between the end of the (Marcos dictatorship) and the dawning of the administration of (former President Corazon) Aquino," she says. "The economy was vibrant. Everyone was selling. Everyone else was buying. It was a good time for the Igorot."

But the demand dried up towards the 1990s. The July 16, 1990 earthquake and the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption affected most industries in Northern Luzon for nearly a decade.

A supply glut in *ikat* products and a supply vacuum in Igorot crafts also accounted for this industry reversal.

Narda says *ikat* venture spawned rival garments lines, but few tested the market in the *pasiking* (Kankanaey-designed back packs) and other Igorot artifacts.

Silk project

"Unfortunately, even *ikat* needs to rely on indigenous resources that have been in scant supply. We have been using imported silk but that makes us just as vulnerable as the rest of the garments industry because the thread distributors have been hit hard by smugglers," she says.

Since 1992, Capuyan had been busy marketing a silk-production project, through her stake in Phil-Italia, a joint venture manufacturing firm.

Despite an inflow of $14 million from her Italian partners to put up a processing plant in South Cotabato, Capuyan's Filipino partners have been unable to woo government interest in the venture.

"Local banks feel we will not have a real market for mulberry (where silkworms thrive), so no bank wants to underwrite our share of $6.5 million," she says.

The project hopes to process 10 tons of cocoon silk, which Italian suppliers are obliged to buy for $7 a cocoon.

Capuyan's stake in Phil-Italia has remained dormant. She tried but failed to revive the venture by pitching the project to Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, whose family first invested in the mulberry farm trade via the defunct Philippine Silk Inc. in Laoag City.

For a time, Capuyan ventured into a trade that spelled suicide for her career: the *wagwag* (second-hand bargain goods) business. But she quickly distanced herself from the second hand business when she received overseas feelers about some of her Mt. Province products.

"When I was on one of my buyers' pitches, I was asked about the *binali* baskets I had brought with me. *Binali* is the indigenous rattan-woven basket that farmers and hunters use to store valuables. We've been buying baskets from a small village in Mt. Province, and the foreign buyers loved them," she says.

Capuyan says this newfound interest in *binali* convinced her to use her export clout to draw investments and buyers to a renaissance of Igorot craftsmanship.

"Interest in the crafts could finally make the government realize that the Igorot-initiated silk production project is a sound program," she says.

"The technology we are using is far advanced than the silk processing plants of Korea and Brazil, where most of the raw silk supply is sourced out. Even Thailand is willing to buy from us if we start now. All the silk we can supply could start a real *ikat* industry, and save the garments business."

Home improvement shop to expand

HANDYMAN Do it Best Center, the fastest-growing home improvement store chain, is looking at continued growth in 2004.

Company president Willy Co revealed that they remain bullish with their expansion plans. This is in line with their objectives of providing the public with the widest choices on hardware and home improvement products at the best prices.

Handyman recently marked a major milestone with the opening of its 40th store in December 2003 at the Elizabeth Mall in Cebu.

"This is very significant for us because it shows the confidence and trust that the public continues to give the Handyman chain. We have grown steadily through the years and will continue to do so," said Co.

In 2004, at least four stores will be opened, two of which will carry the new Big Box warehouse-type format located inside shopping malls, the first of its kind in the Philippines. Three existing stores, meanwhile, will undergo a major rephasing into the format of Do it Best Corp.—a leading US-based hardware cooperative Handyman joined in 2002.

With this membership, Handyman now enjoys access to over 70,000 imported hardware and home improvement products.

Do it Best Corp. also lends its expertise to Handyman in terms of adapting a more customer-friendly layout and better shopping ambiance.

Handyman and Handyman Do it Best currently have 40 stores nationwide. The first Handyman opened in July 1994 at Robinsons Galleria.

This paved the way for the innovative concept of offering basic home repair and improvement needs (now more popularly known as the do-it-yourself format).

This year, Handyman opened six stores located at Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Lipa, JY Square Cebu, Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cainta, Waltermart Plaridel and Pacific Mall Lucena.

Increased customer traffic

Co also said that Handyman sales and customer traffic were ahead of the previous year.

"And we expect the same thing to happen next year," he said.

This may be attributed to the stores' quality products, top new brands, competitive pricing strategy and great customer service.

"We focus on the lifestyle of the customers and make sure that our merchandise fit their needs. The assortment of products has also improved," Co said.

New products , more brands

The expansion plans in 2004 would be complemented with the introduction of new products, services and innovations.

"We will continuously improve our merchandise mix, introducing more items to address our growing customers' specific and specialized home improvement needs. This move would give Handyman a more focused product selection that would give our customers more reasons to shop at our stores," said Jody Gadia, general manager of Handyman.

Handyman Do it Best Centers distinguish themselves from other home improvement and hardware stores by providing a customer-friendly shopping environment.

"Here, when you walk in, you will immediately feel at home," said Gadia.

Handyman Do it Best also takes pride in its staff.

"Our stores are manned by courteous and knowledgeable personnel. They undergo special training," Gadia added.

Handyman Do it Best also conducts scheduled free classes and product demonstrations on common home concerns such as basic home safety and advanced computer surveillance, cleaning techniques for the modern housewife, quick and easy toilet repair, and even usage and applications of power tools, among others.

Sales promotions are also held periodically in the stores where substantial discounts and free gifts with purchase are offered to customers.

First female finance head . . .

From page B1

solve the problem.

As shocking as it was when he resigned, the financial markets again moved to Camacho's bidding and again saw a restive peso and wider spreads on Philippine dollar bonds. Camacho's comments grabbed the business headlines the same day Moody's Investors Service arrived for a country assessment.

No fiscal crisis

"I don't think the term fiscal crisis is correct. We have fiscal problems because we have a huge deficit but it has not reached crisis proportions. We have a huge debt because we borrowed too much and the current situation is an accumulation of budget deficits in the last several years," says Amatong.

There could have been lapses in administration in the past, which led to an erosion of the tax revenue base, she notes. But even that is being addressed already, thanks to efforts initiated by Camacho.

"I intend to sustain the fiscal discipline started by Lito. There is not much that can be done in six months but we are pushing all fronts and doing our best," says Amatong with not even the slightest hint of animosity with her former boss.

Right now, she has her hands full with never-ending meetings, time-consuming public engagements and nerve-wracking policy decisions to worry about what ex-officials do and say.

THE FRUITS of Rodolfo Tuanqui's labor are really fruits from his farm. PHOTO BY RONNIE LOREJO

Former seaman finds gold in farming

By Joyce Mejillano and Ronnie Lorejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

POLANGUI, Albay—Rodolfo Tuanqui of Barangay Napo in this agricultural town has found gold in his 8,800-square-meter farm by maximizing its use for various agricultural crops, making him one of the best farmers nationwide.

Merely five years in farming, Tuanqui has converted his almost one-hectare farm into a productive enterprise, giving birth to other businesses that supply not only the needs of his family but also of others.

Early career

Tuanqui, 65, was a barangay captain from 1968 to 1971 and worked as a seaman from 1985 to 1994.

After almost nine years of traveling in different countries, especially in Europe, he decided to go back to his hometown and put into practice what he learned about agriculture in the Araneta University, where he finished Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry.

Aside from his educational background, his personal experiences during his travels abroad drove him to once again engage in farming.

He had also worked as livestock-in-charge of a big farm in Nueva Ecija, which also helped him to be more familiar with the farming business.

"I had been into farming even before I became a seaman. It was, however, just not as serious as this one now," Tuanqui recalls, adding he has been interested in farming since he was a child.

He started his farm with the lot at the back of his three-bedroom bungalow. It is an integration of various crops and livestock. He adopted the multi-story farming system and maximized every inch of his farm.

Tuanqui has in his farm different kinds of plants like banana, coffee, cacao, patola, black pepper, ampalaya, pineapple and cutflower. He also has ornamental plants that add beauty to his farm.

Although his backyard farm has less than a hundred trees, he is raking in thousands of pesos from various crops and their byproducts.

Diversification

"I believe that it is in diversifying that a farmer gets to raise his income because he has more options and alternatives while waiting for the major crop to be productive," he says.

"And there is a fallback in case one of the crops could not produce the expected yield due to pests and diseases and unexpected natural calamities," Tuanqui adds.

He also maintains a piggery in his backyard.

In a neighboring barangay, he cultivated his 8,800-square-meter rice field, planting legumes on its sideways and along the dikes. He adopted technologies like the application of a combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers, multi-swine breeding (in his livestock business) and others that could enhance his production.

He says he would combine all dried leaves and animal manure in a compost pit located nearby the house and would mix them with the inorganic fertilizers, which he buys from the market.

Oasis of businesses

His farm has become an oasis of different businesses. He has a loofah business, derived from the patola ground in his backyard. He claims he ventured into the loofah business because when he was a seaman, he observed that it was the most sought-after body scrubber in Europe and America due to its

FORMER/ B3

Hacienda farming without the 3 evil '*isms*'

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Haciendas, those hundreds and even thousands of hectares of agricultural land owned by a single family, may be a thing of the past with the entry of the Agrarian Reform Law.

But the Land Bank of the Philippines, which was primarily established to help the landless farmers, is now looking at haciendas for a radical way of increasing agricultural productivity.

"We have to admit that the haciendas then were more productive because they were run as a corporation. Corporate farms are more productive than land fragmented with each farmer farming their own small farms," says Mauricio Feliciano, assistant vice president of the LBP and head of its development assistance department. "Because of land reform, productivity had gone down."

To re-introduce the hacienda system or corporate farming without harking back the old three 'isms' (imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism), LBP re-introduced the integrated corporate farming system (ICFS).

Feliciano says the ICFS targets farmer cooperatives, whose members occupy a contiguous tract of land totaling 50 or more hectares. The land must be within 15 kilometers of a post-harvest facility to ensure the autonomy of the farm.

The LBP provided technical assistants to train the farmers manage these "neo-haciendas" and introduce better technology to maximize productivity.

The cooperatives are trained in cooperative comptrollership as well as pre-harvest, production, post-harvest and marketing technologies, Feliciano says.

The LBP also provides a start-up capital for the cooperative and help in providing institutional buyers. After a year, technical consultants hand over the management and coordination to the cooperatives.

"Farmers can earn more by the rental of their land to their cooperative as well as provide labor. Profit-sharing would be the norm of the ICFS," Feliciano says.

The ICFS was conceptualized two years ago and was tested in Nueva Ecija last year. Feliciano said they were concentrating on palay producers first and would try to go into other crops.

Pilot program

The LBP chose the Pulo Producers Cooperative (PPC) based in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, for the pilot implementation of the program. They started with only 20 farmers occupying 44.9 hectares of rice land. The farmers obtained a loan of P628,000 from LBP. Prior to the ICFS, the farmers were producing an average of 56 cavans of rice per hectare.

For the ICFS, the PPC decided to grow hybrid rice and in their first run, the farmers increased their yield to 85 cavans per hectare. They earned a capital buildup of P30,000.

Their second run was very encouraging. Membership in their ICFS rose to 77 farmers and the corporate farm they now till increased to 104 hectares. Their earnings had gone up to P4.15 million and they had increased their capital buildup to P194,000. Through the transfer of technology, they had increased their yield collectively to 120 cavans per hectare.

Cagayan Valley next

Emboldened by the auspicious success of the PPC, LBP has set its sight to Cagayan Valley, acknowledged as the "rice bowl of the Philippines."

Last month, LBP president Margarito Teves signed a memorandum of agreement with the Cagayan Valley Agricultural Technology Foundation (CVATF) for its next ICFS venture. The CVATF will help the Solana West Farmers Cooperative (Sowefasco) in Barangay Ubong in Solana, Cagayan. The Sowefasco will have 79 of its farmer-members participating in the ICFS over 105 hectares of palay farms.

CVATF president Reynaldo Aresta says they would introduce the corporate farming technology, hybrid rice farming and hog fattening to augment the farmers' income. After a year, the Sowefasco will take over.

After Solano, the ICFS will be introduced in Digos City in Davao del Sur and Oriental Mindoro, LBP officials says.

GOVERNMENT now turns to haciendas to increase productivity.

Former . . .

From page B2

biodegradable fibers and therapeutic effects.

He now supplies loofah products such as bath and dish sponges, decorative items and slippers to different stores in the province. The business has given employment to women in their barangay and neighboring villages.

He is also into making santan, coco sauce and bucayo (all coconut byproducts) for his consumption and business purposes, as well.

He also sells seedlings to other farmers who are interested in venturing into agriculture.

He even created a small cooperative called Alrin Multi-Purpose Cooperative that now has 30 members in the third district of Albay and neighboring towns of Camarines Sur.

Recognition

With his extraordinary farming and entrepreneurial skills, Tuanqui was recognized by the Department of Science and Technology as a national Magsasaka-Siyentista under the Farmer Scientist Bureau (FSB) Program in 1999.

As Magsasaka-Siyentista, he is part of the FSB network, which implements a new extension delivery strategy using the farmers not only as information seekers but also a source of reliable information to other farmers.

According to the Department of Agriculture regional office based in Pili, Camarines Sur, Tuanqui has contributed a lot to the FSB program because of his commitment and dedication to his role as a farmer-scientist. He has also significantly influenced his fellow farmers.

He introduced to his fellow farmers the latest, cost-effective and agro-ecology friendly technologies that he uses in farming.

He has also been nominated in Gawad-Saka Search for Outstanding Coconut Farmer in 1999-2000.

Since then, he has been invited as a resource person in various regional and national events that concern farming industry.

His farm is frequently visited by different groups for educational tours, especially by agriculture students and farmer organizations from Albay and different provinces in the region.

Poor market

"But the problem lies in marketing. Even though we want to produce more, like our loofah business, our market is very limited," he claims.

He says that, at first, they found it too difficult to market their products. His wife, Fe, says some store owners were at first hesitant to buy their products, forcing her to make a consignment agreement and it worked well.

But despite poor market, Tuanqui maintains his current buyers, especially in Polangui, and keeps promoting his products.

His wife, four children and other relatives help him in marketing the products.

Tuanqui says he earns hundreds of thousands of pesos annually just from the one-hectare farm. He, however, refuses to reveal the exact figures.

He notes the Filipinos are lucky enough to have a soil that is fertile and season that are suited for agricultural business.

"We just need to be industrious enough to maximize what the Lord has given us. And that will spare us from poverty and hunger," he advises.

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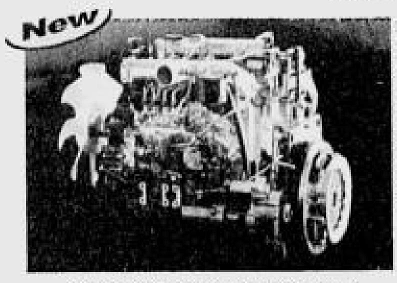

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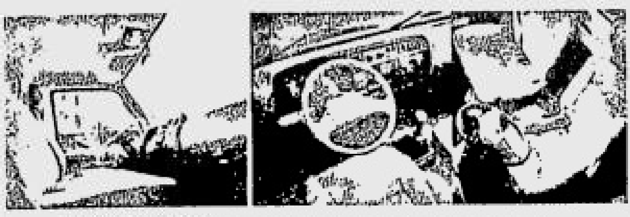
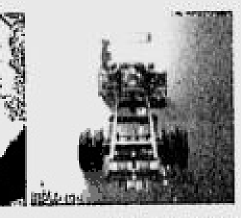


A Superior Cabin and Interior. Aside from a visually exciting and aero-dynamically efficient cab, the Canter boasts of a very comfortable cabin with car-like features.
Mas Gwapo!



Strong, Reliable and Durable Chassis. Improvements on the chassis were made to ensure strength and durability as well as safety.
Mas Matatag!

Low Down Payment Plans

CANTER	SRP	20% DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.
FE 519	740,000	128,000	28,850	20,638	16,653
FE 639	850,000	135,000	33,138	23,706	19,128

All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

Low Monthly Plans/Zero Interest Plans

50% DP	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.
370,000	31,426	21,569	17,076	12,215	9,856
425,000	35,417	24,042	19,039	13,620	10,990

Hurry! Promo Extended until December 29, 2003

Approved by DTI-NCR

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CANTER
Dahil Malaki ka na

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4220 Series of 2003

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Received ₱10
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SM
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10
Para sa:

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XXXXXXX>

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(Recipient)

808

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puwedeng i-credit sa

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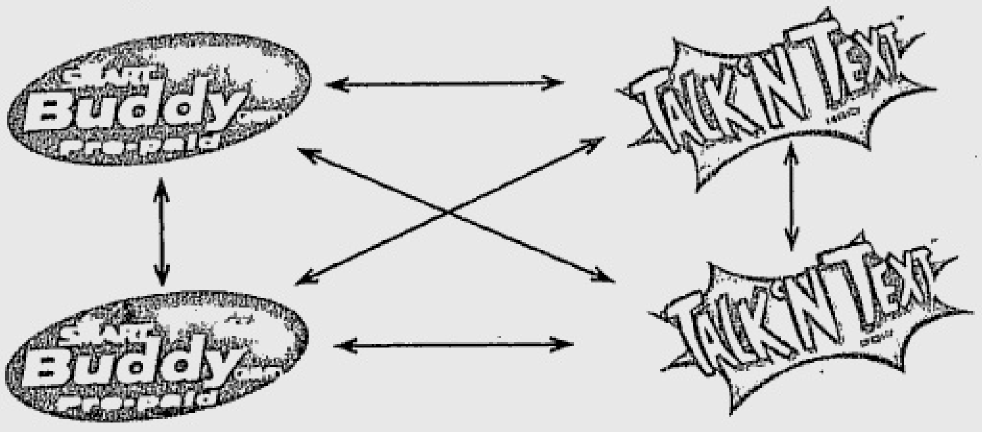

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2. No. 3 Alpha Street, St. Peter Subd., Alangilan, Batangas LA:324m²; FA:191.22m²; **P2.1Million**
3. Lot 2, Blk. 16, Rosario Village, Iyam, Lucena City LA: 296m²; FA:141m²; **P1.6Million**
4. 1st Street, Peasantville Subd., Iyam, Lucena City LA: 960m²; FA: 310m²; **P4.4 Million**
5. Masaya Street, Bo. Del Pilar, San Fernando, Pampanga LA: 500m²; FA: 341m²; **P 1.8 Million**

*ALL PRICE ARE NEGOTIABLE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/O PRIOR NOTICE

VACANT RESD'L. LOTS

1. Lot 1, Blk. 3, Palm Ridge Drive cor. Raffia Palm St., Palm Ridge Polmee, Ph. 1, Bo. Balas, Talisay, Batangas LA: 748m²; **P3.6 Million**
2. Lot 2805, Mayo Street, Lumingon, Tiaong, Quezon LA: 2,427m²; **P4.9 Million**
3. Lot 43, Blk. 35, Tanguile St., Town & Country North Exec. Vill., Marilao, Bulacan LA: 199m²; **P895,500.00**
4. Lot 2 Rodriguez Ave. cor. Camia St., Bo. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, LA: 668 m²; **P8.1Million**
5. Lot 2-I-1 Greenville Subd., Bo. San Jose, San Fernando, Pampanga LA: 306m²; **P650,000.00**

*ALL OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT APPROVAL

COMM'L. BLDGS/LOTS

1. Vacant comm'l. lot Km. 2 Ortigas Ave., Ext., San Isidro, Taytay, Rizal LA: 850 m²; **P13.6 Million**
2. Vacant Comm'l. Lot Lot B, Km. 5, Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet LA:652 m²; **P13.1 Million**
3. Vacant Comm'l. Lot Gov. Ferrer Ave., Brgy. Tejero, Rosario, Cavite LA:1,100 m²; **P16.5 Million**
4. Two-storey comm'l. bldg. Along Tinio St., Poblacion Gapan, Nueva Ecija LA:313m²; TFA:440.77m²; **P11.5Million**
5. Three-storey comm'l. bldg. Diego Silang Street, Poblacion, Batangas City, LA: 294m², **P8.0 Million**

* SALE IS ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS

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AYALA ALABANG 2STY 500m² POOL 16M NEG DIR. BUYERS 0917-7310820

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950T 2BR 2STY 8054686

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

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LAGUNA

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FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ETHELWALDO ZARCO BAUTISTA was settled by his sole heir through an Affidavit of Adjudication. As Per Doc No.385, Page No.78, Book No. 01 Series of 2003 Notary Public Ma. Amparo H. Villamor for Makati City.
PDI-Dec.28, 2003, Jan.4 &11 2004

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Ana Sarmiento and Faustino Pedro, Parcel of lands located in Pasong Tamo, Quezon City, particularly described in TCT No. 5360 of Lot 777-B of the Piedad estate and TCT No. 19491 of Lot 713-C also of the Piedad estate has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc 427 Page 66 Book 17 Series 2002 before Notary Public Atty Hector B. Centeno, QC
(PDI-Dec 21, 28, 2003 & Jan 4, 2004)

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(PDI-Dec. 28, 2003)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN XTRA P8000/MO 8704144

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INVITATION TO BID

The Bank will schedule for auction eleven (11) properties, with one lot having a residential improvement, more particularly described as follows:

Located at Barangay Banilad, Mandaue City

1)	5,000	square meters
2)	2,025	square meters
3)	2,046	square meters
4)	5,239	square meters
5)	772	square meters
6)	772	square meters
7)	773	square meters
8)	2,317	square meters

Located at V. Rama Avenue, Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City

9)	245	square meters
10)	492	square meters

Located at Salinas Drive, Amon Court, Lahug, Cebu City

11)	406	square meters with improvements with floor area of 223 square meters.

For interested parties, please call (032) 811-5807 to 14. Look for Gee or Cirila

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BERKLEY International Plans, a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkley International, LLC and WR Berkley Corp. introduces its new product - the Berkley Group Pension Plan.

The Berkley Group Pension Plan is a guaranteed and systematic fund accumulation program that ensures financial independence for the employee-planholder upon his/her retirement. It is likewise an investment program for any company needing guaranteed investment returns. The insurance benefits, together with the other features of the program, allow the employee-planholder to maximize both cost and benefits.

For flexibility, the Berkley Group Pension Program has the Basic and the Comprehensive programs.

The Basic program is available to all insurable and non-insurable employees. It carries insurance benefits (Waiver of Premium upon Death, Waiver of Premium upon Disability and Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit equivalent to 50 percent to 100 percent of the Maturity Value) except term insurance. The planholder is insured during the paying period.

The Comprehensive Program is available to all insurable employees. It has a wider array of protection benefits (Term Insurance equal to 100 percent of the Maturity Value, Waiver of Premium upon Death, Waiver of Premium upon Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit equal to 100 percent to 200 percent of the Maturity Value). The Planholder is insured until maturity date.

A client purchases a Berkley Group Retirement Program based on the maturity benefit he wants to have. He will then determine the type of plan (Basic or Comprehensive) he would be most comfortable with.

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NFA Managers' project proposals to save millions

FOURTEEN PROJECT proposals of National Food Authority executives are expected to save millions of pesos for the agency once they are implemented nationwide.

The 14 proposals were chosen from the three batches of participants to the agency's Management Training Program (MTP) and handpicked on the basis of their applicability to the agency's operations and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

Among the 14 project proposals are the development of more cost-effective schemes in the production and sale of NFA-milled rice, synchronizing and safeguarding NFA data and documents through digital imaging and archiving, and institutionalizing a public relations program in NFA Central Office.

An innovative pest control measure called insect light trap, presented by NFA Western Pangasinan Assistant Provincial Manager Fortunato Bulao, is already expected to save the agency some P1.9 million annually. This innovation earlier earned Bulao a Lingkod Bayan award from the Civil Service Commission.

The MTP is a training program for NFA's managers. Participants in this program undergo rigid training in various areas of supervisory and other managerial skills development.

Proponents of the 14 projects were given P5,000 each as incentive.

Meanwhile, the public is encouraged to send queries, suggestions or complaints through the NFA's text messaging system 0917-621-0967.

CEBU ARTS FOUNDATION,INC

APPOINTMENT

DANCERG Marketing and Promotions Services was appointed as the marketing arm of the Cebu Arts Foundation, Inc. to handle the marketing planning and promotion selling of the 22nd Cebu Pop Music Festival for 2004 which will be on January 16, 2004. Shown in photo are the general manager of DANCERG, Cergen D. Go and Luciano Lim, chairman marketing and promotions Committee of Cebu Arts Foundation, Inc.

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Ecclesiastes 3 (1-8)

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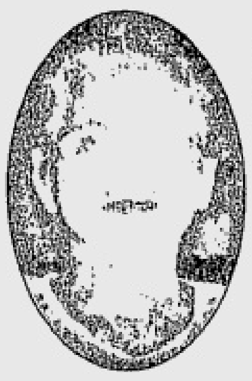

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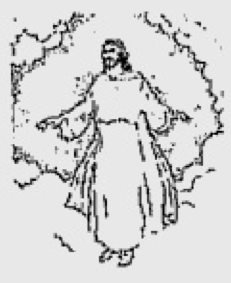

OF PATEROS, RIZAL & SAN JUAN, BATANGAS
Sept. 5, 1928 – Jan. 1, 2003

On her 1st Year Death Anniversary

Her loving children **Cesar & Redem, Oscar & Divina, Cora & Oscar, Elizabeth, Leopoldo**, together with brother **Demetrio & Angelita**; grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to include her in their prayers.

Masses will be on January 1, 2004 in the following Churches:

San Roque Parish (Pateros, Manila)	4:45 p.m.
San Felipe Neri Parish (Mandaluyong City)	5:00 p.m.
San Juan Nepomuceno Parish (San Juan, Batangas)	7:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish (Balayan, Batangas)	8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Pillar Parish (Imus, Cavite)	8:00 a.m.
St. Michael Cathedral Parish (Bacoor, Cavite)	6:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish (Dasmariñas, Cavite)	9:00 a.m.
St. Ferdinand Cathedral Parish (Lucena City)	8:00 a.m.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

EDWIN C. MONREAL

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 5, 2003.

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our friends, here and abroad, who offered masses, prayers and messages of sympathy, sent flowers, mass cards, food and donations, kept vigil and attended the funeral rites, condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Your presence helped ease the pain. Your prayers will give us strength to move on. Thank you so much and may God bless you all with good health all through your days.

CONNIE, KYM AND RONNIE

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

MYRNA ASIS GUANZON

Peacefully joined our Creator on December 26, 2003 at the age of 53.

Her loving husband **Willie**; father **Leopoldo**; mother-in-law **Pilar**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels at Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, 30th of December 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park Chapel.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Mr. Delfin Padua Tangcora

December 24, 1940 – December 26, 2003

beloved husband of **Aida C. Tangcora**
beloved father of **Delson C. Tangcora**
Aidelbert C. Tangcora

His loving wife, children, children-in-law **Michelle** and **Mariz**, brothers, sisters, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 30, 2003, 3 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Lourdes Villa-Abrille Abella

of Davao City

Has joined her husband, Fermin, and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on December 26, 2003 at the age of 90.

Her loving children **Brooks** and **Rolly**; **Baby** and **Dion**; **Bojo** and **Malu**; **Jing** and **Siony**; **Teri** and **Chito**; **Malu, Joel** (†) and **Roy**; **Ivy** and **Tony**; her sisters **Julia Llamas, Milagros Villa-Abrille, Natividad Jaroda** and **Teresita Villa-Abrille**, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal happiness of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family home at 25 Juna Ave., Juna Subd., Matina, Davao City and will be interred at the Davao Memorial Park on December 30, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the San Pablo Parish, Juna Subd., Matina, Davao City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Missionaries of Charity will be appreciated.

"The Lord is
my strength
and my shield
in whom my
heart trusted
and found
help. So my
heart rejoices;
with my song
I praise my
God..."
Psalm 28:7

DR. BIENVENIDO Z. ANGELES

March 22, 1921-December 25, 2003

His remains lie in state at the Guzman Memorial Chapel, J.P. Rizal Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on December 30, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at Heaven's Gate Memorial Park 1, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Elena Chapel, Marikina City.

LIGAYA LAZARTE ALINSOD

May 22, 1932 - December 26, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator on December 26, 2003.

Her loving husband **Isidro** (†); children **Ramon Ignacio, Romello Fernando** and **Laarni**; grandchild **Sebastian Gabriel**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mortuary of the Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church, Sta. Rosa Municipal Cemetery on December 30, 2003 after the 12:00 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church.

LOURDES I. JAVIER

"A loving wife and wonderful mother"

Peacefully joined her Creator on December 26, 2003 at the age of 71.

Her loving husband **CESAR**, children & children-in-law **GIN & MIKE, JOJI, LYNN & DOODS**, grandchildren **KAY, GEPH** and **MOLLY**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Solace I, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 30, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CONDINO MANALO BAAY

who passed away on December 21, 2003

wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offering, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways who were just there for us when needed it most.

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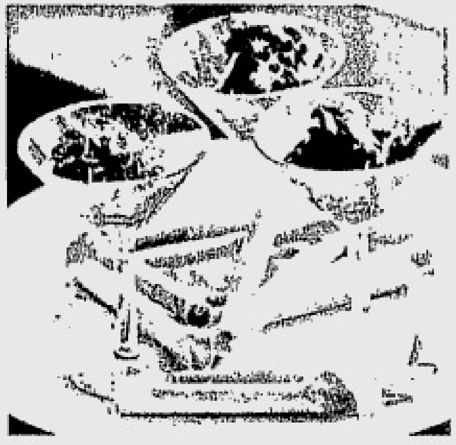
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ROAST Leg of Lamb with Apple-Cinnamon-Marmalade

Easy-to-prepare but lavish New Year feast



VALHRONA Chocolate Mousse with White Chocolate Shavings and Dried Figs

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

THERE'S no better way to celebrate a new year than with an array of succulent bites and champagne cocktails.

Myrna Segismundo has whipped up an assortment of dishes in the kitchen of 9501, the exclusive corporate dining restaurant of ABS-CBN, that will do proud any New Year dinner table.

A lavish spread of Roast Leg of Lamb with Apple Cinnamon Marmalade, Filo Purses with Balsamic Syrup, Grilled Prawns with Oven-Dried Tomatoes, Pine Nuts and Black Olives Tapenade, Red Beet and Orange Salad with Vinaigrette, Sauteed Spinach with Cream and the to-die-for Valhrona Chocolate Mousse with White Chocolate Shavings and Dried Figs constitutes Segismundo's idea of festive fare.

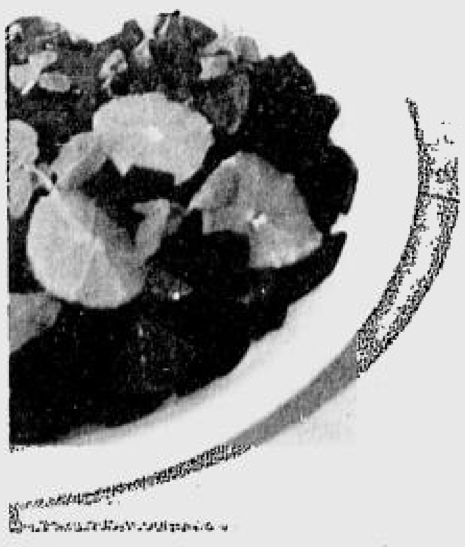
Segismundo, TV Food Chefs' managing director, says preparing food for the New Year doesn't have to be complicated. After a very taxing preparation for the noche buena, you may want your dinner table for the new year toned down a bit, easy cooking but still fabulous in presentation.

Segismundo concocted her "fabulous" dishes using her own bottled preserves like Apple-Cinnamon Marmalade, Oven-Dried Tomatoes, *adobo* paté and pickled *santol* from Lipa, as main sources of flavor, as well as base for the sauce.

"If you have meat at home, you can just open your convenient bottles and make sauce or dressings out of that," says Segismundo, a food writer and author of the popular book, "The Party Cookbook."

"You can use the Apple Cinnamon Marmalade for the roast leg of lamb as a glazing or basting sauce. You can mix the marmalade

EASY-TO-PREPARE/ C2



MYRNA Segismundo and her New Year spread

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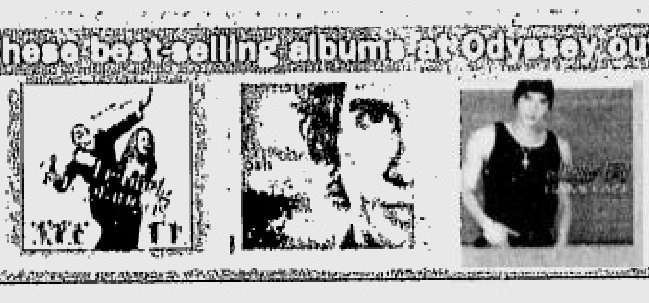
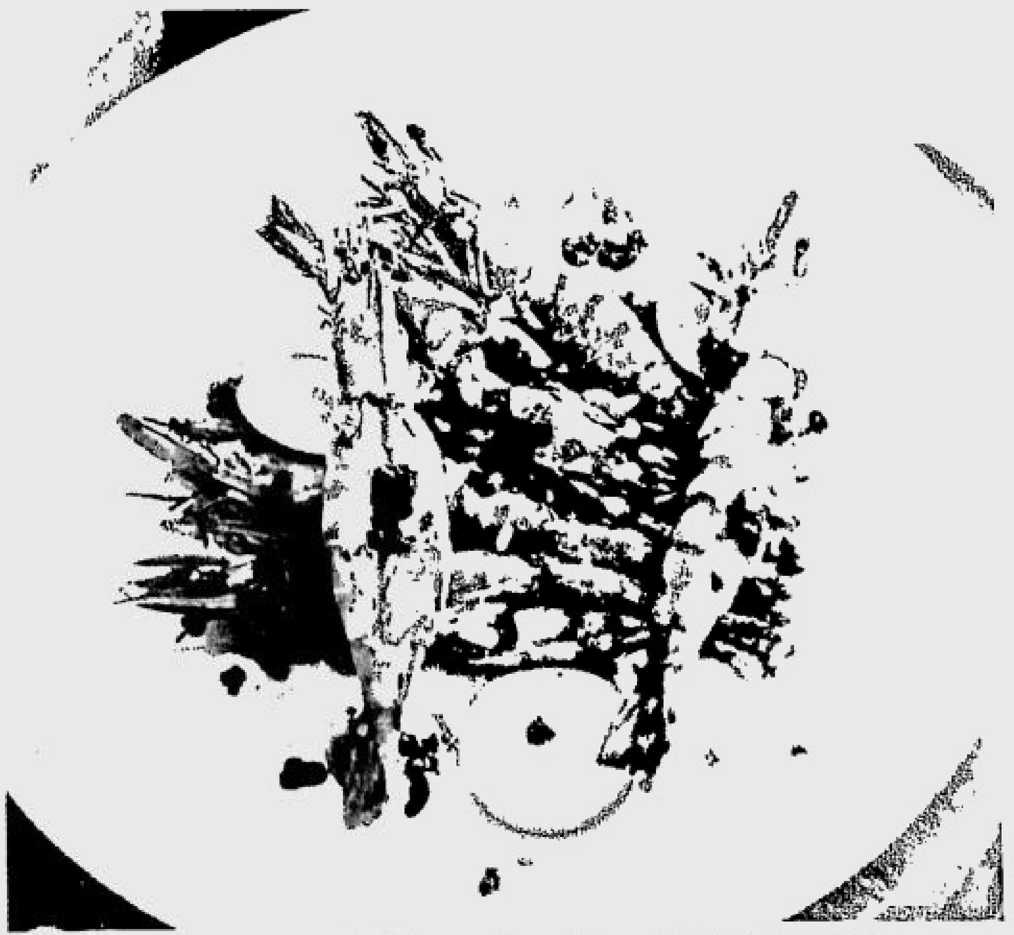




GRILLED Prawns with Oven-Dried Tomatoes, Pine Nuts and Black Olives Tapenade

SAUTEED Spinach with Cream and Sauteed Artichokes with Basil-Lemon Vinaigrette, ideal sidings for roast lamb

Easy-to-prepare but

From page C1

with the little drippings of the roast. For the prawns, you can grill or bake them in the oven. Then, using the bottled oven-dried tomatoes which we make in the restaurant, you just chop that up together with some black olives, make a separate tapenade which you would sauté in garlic and olive oil and drizzle over the prawns or any seafood you wish to eat.

"What's also important is (that) whatever you have in your pantry you create something out of it. You can open a can of artichokes, sauté it in a little basil, lemon and olive oil to make a vinaigrette. Or, you can sauté spinach in a little cream and onions and serve it on a nice platter."

The bottled preserves, which Segismundo personally made for 9501, are quite handy and keep very well when unopened.

Exclusive restaurant

Segismundo has been managing Restaurant 9501 for the past three years. Her New Year fare will be available at the restaurant only on request (tel. 4111434 or 4111564).

Restaurant 9501 is exclusive to members of the ABS-CBN management and their guests. "Outsiders are able to avail of the facilities by being an acquaintance of any of the senior officers of ABS-CBN," says Segismudo. "Simply put, it is open to the public we know, and only by reservation."

The elegant dining club, designed by Lindy Locsin on the 14/F of ELJ building, offers a breathtaking 180-degree unobstructed view of the metropolis. From that vantage point, one can see mountains in the distance, the sea, even Laguna de Bay, Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Makati, etc., and, of course, on a clear day, sunsets over Manila Bay.

The beautifully decorated restaurant, with its fine wood paneling, plush velvet, modern steel and glass interiors, can seat about 200 guests or more. The 1,500-sq-m floor also has a large gleaming lobby, four function rooms, including the wine room, and a mini theater for showing training films, food films and documentaries.

The restaurant is named after the project number: 9501. "During construction meetings and discussions it was always referred to as project 9501. This floor was the first to be completed in the entire building. It was also the first project in 1995. When the day came they had to register the place, they kept the name 9501," Segismundo explains.

Asked about the specialties of Restaurant 9501, Segismundo claims: "Anything and everything under the sun… If we were typecast as any one type of restaurant like Italian, Spanish or French we'd be closed in a month because you wouldn't want to eat the same kind of food every single day. We have to be imaginative and innovative about our food. The a la carte menu is changed every two months."

Favorites in the house include Hainanese chicken rice, *adobo* paté, boneless *lechon* and the most sought-after banana *turon* with jackfruit, made smaller like *lumpiang* Shanghai.

"From the simplest comfort food to the most sublime dishes that one can think of, 9501 can put together. It's very hard to compare us to commercial restaurants because our menu changes regularly. I'd like to think it's a whole kitchen philosophy and approach to food that when we put something together we keep the people that we serve in mind each time. This is what makes corporate dining uniquely different. Since you serve the same people each time, you make the effort to know them and then feed them according to the occasion and the mood of the time …

It is really thinking about the people you feed as members of your home or *kapamilya*. This is Kapamilya cuisine!"

Grilled Prawns with Homemade Oven-Dried Tomatoes, Pine Nuts and Black Olive Tapenade

Serves 4-6

6-8 pc butterflied king prawns seasoned with salt, pepper and *dayap* or *calamansi* juice

¼ c oven-dried tomatoes and pine nuts in olive oil (recipe below)

2 tbsp black olive tapenade (recipe below)

Skewer prawns and grill until half-cooked. Remove skewers and arrange prawns in a platter. Drizzle dish with minced oven-dried tomatoes and olive tapenade. Serve warm.

FLAT BREAD with Apple Cinnamon Sauc

Bottled Oven-Dried Tomatoes and Pine Nuts in Olive Oil:

12-15 pc plum tomatoes, washed and halved lengthwise

salt for seasoning

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil for drizzling on tomatoes

1 tbsp pine nuts, toasted

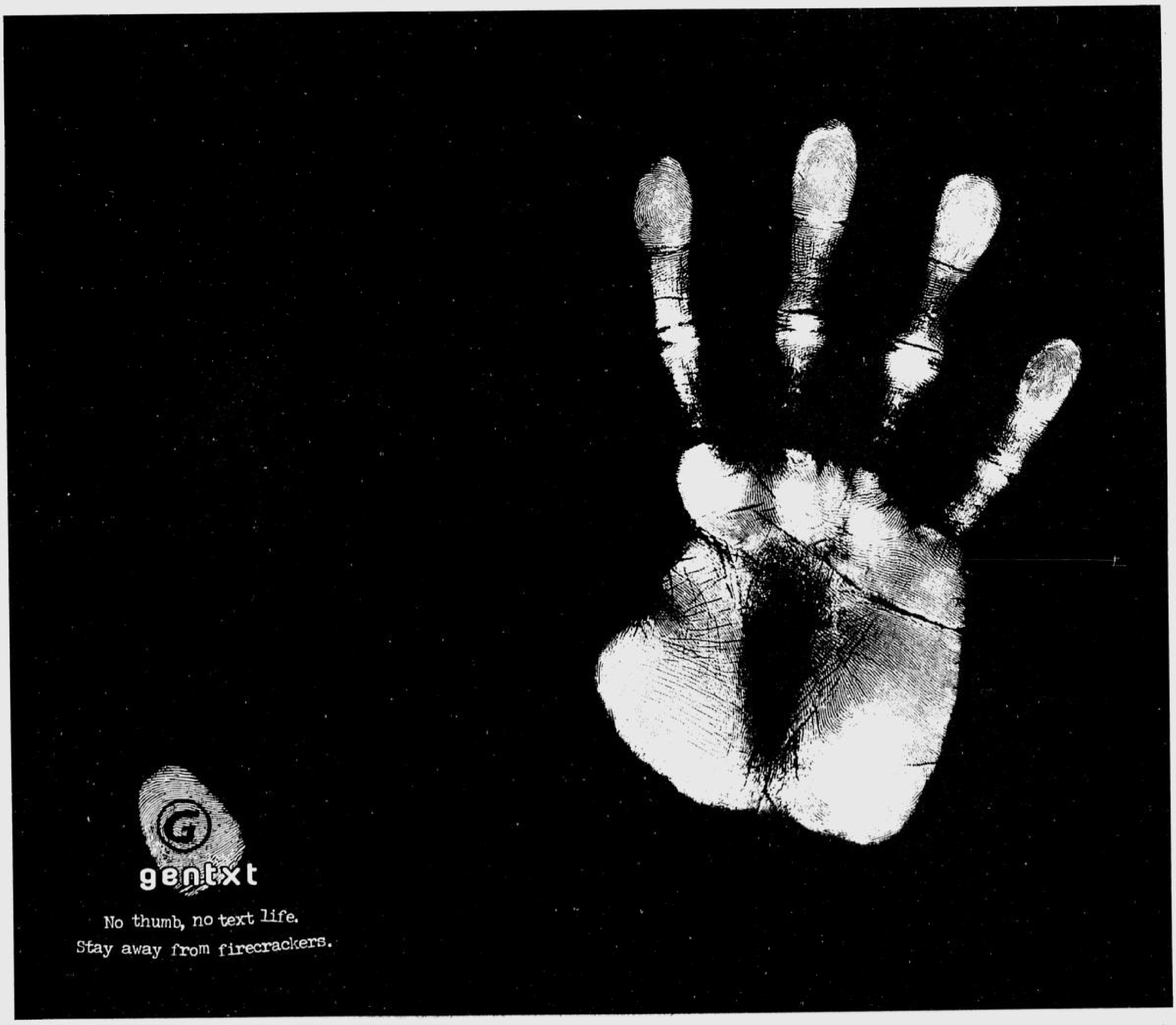
1 tbsp lemon juice

extra virgin olive oil for bottling

Preheat oven to 300°F. Arrange tomatoes side by side on a baking tray. Sprinkle with a little salt and olive oil. Place tray in oven and cook for about 45 minutes or until dry. Allow to cool.

This may be stored for future use or, if you wish to bottle it, place the dried tomatoes and toasted pine nuts in a sterilized bottle or jar and top with lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil. Seal bottle with a cap.

To serve with the prawns, mince the required portion of tomatoes and toss in some of its oil together with a little of the pine nuts.


gentxt
No thumb, no text life.
Stay away from firecrackers.

lavish New Year feast

RED Beet and Orange Salad with Vinaigrette

For Black Olive Tapenade:
¼ c olive oil
1 tsp garlic, minced
1 tsp onion, minced
3-4 fillets anchovies, chopped
1 tbsp lemon juice
1 c black olives, pitted

In a preheated pan with olive oil, auté garlic and onions. Add anhovies, lemon juice and olives and tir. Allow to cool. Chop finely or process in a blender until a rough puree is chieved.

Valhrona Chocolate Mousse with Brandied Figs

½ c white sugar
2 tbsp raisins
2 tbsp unsalted butter
¼ kg Valhrona Dark Chocolate, oarsely chopped
2 pc egg yolks, beaten
whites of two eggs
brandied figs (recipe below)
white chocolate shavings (option-l)

Caramelize sugar. Add raisins and butter. Add chocolate and stir until melted. Whisk in egg yolks and continue to whisk until all ingredients are mixed well. Remove chocolate mixture from heat and transfer to a bowl.

Beat egg whites till fluffy. Place the chocolate mixture in a bowl over another bigger bowl half-filled with ice. Fold beaten egg whites into the chocolate mixture. Fold until the chocolate mousse is stiff. Chill at least an hour before serving.

Place in individual serving bowls or glasses. Top with brandied figs, some of the brandy syrup and white chocolate shavings.

For Brandied Figs:
3-4 pc dried figs, sliced into fine strips
3 tbsp honey
1 tbsp brandy

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Marinate for an hour.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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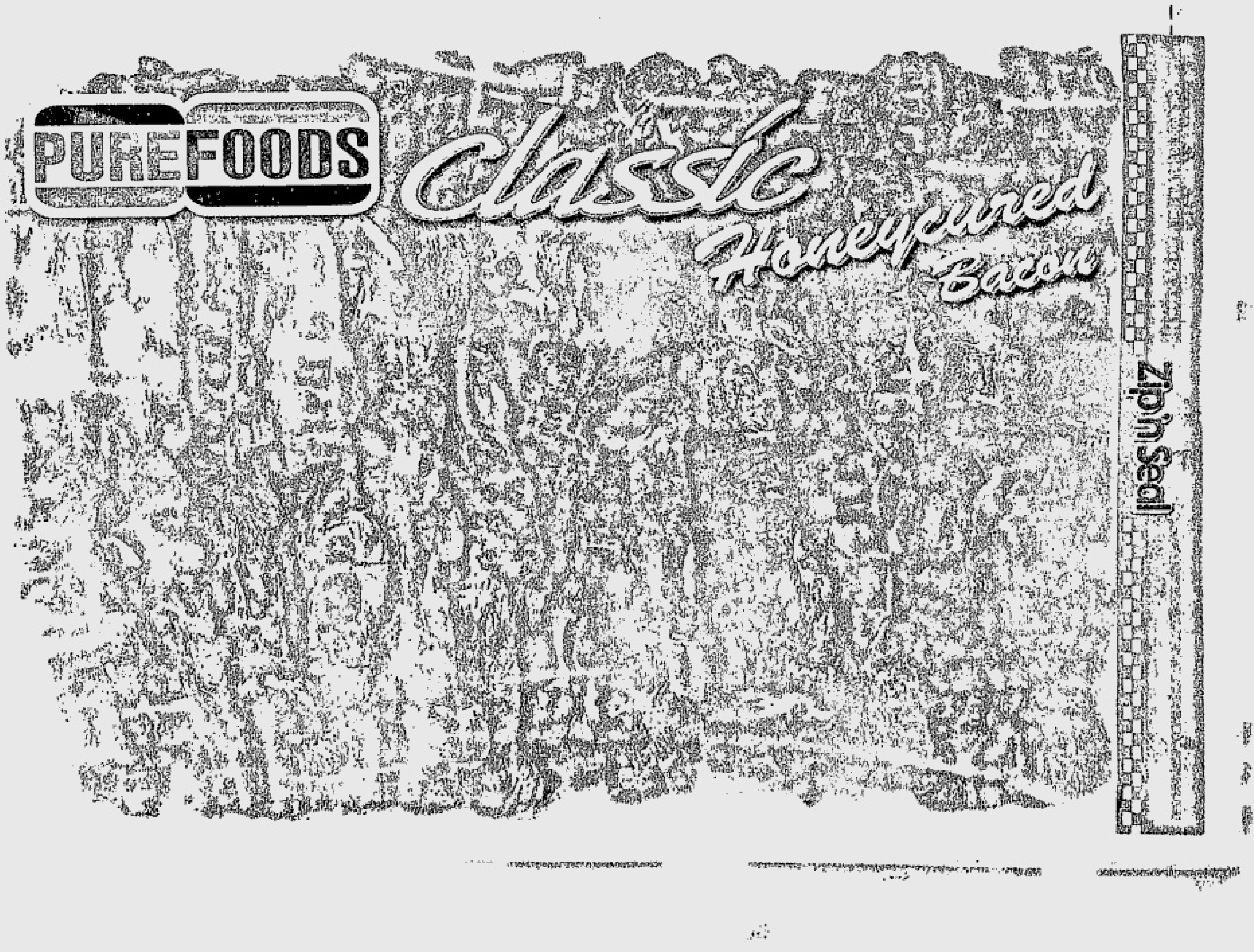

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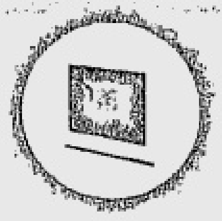

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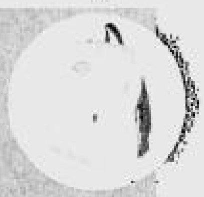

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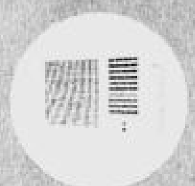

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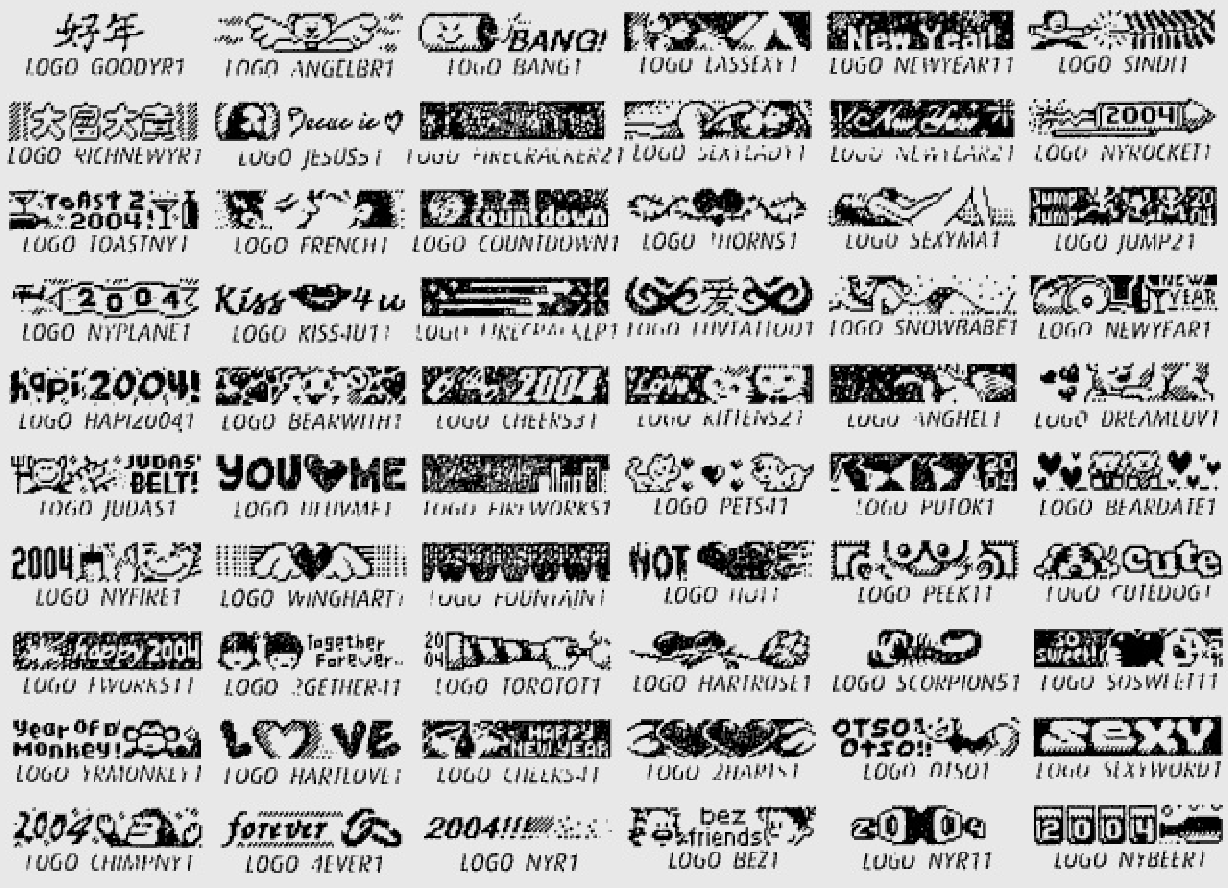

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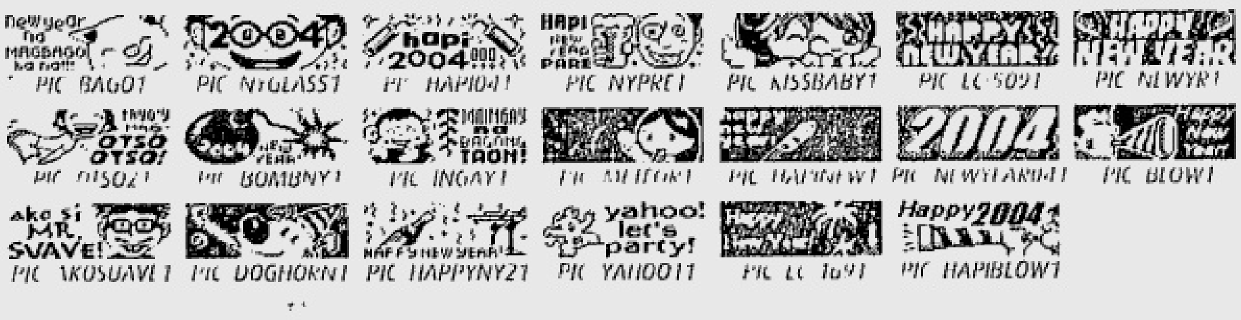

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Ringtones

RINGTONE	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORDS
Mr. Suave	Parokya ni Edgar	**TONE MRSUAVE1**
Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb	**TONE SPAG1**
Happy	Rolling Stones	**TONE HAPPY1**
Maybe	Enrique Iglesias	**TONE MAYBE1**
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	**TONE WERISLUV1**
Perfect	True Faith	**TONE PERFECT1**
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	**TONE IBE1**
Kanlungan	Noel Cabangon	**TONE KANLUNGAN1**
Forever's Not Enough	Sarah Geronimo	**TONE 4EVERSNOT1**
Unwell	Matchbox 20	**TONE UNWELL1**
Awit Ng Kabataan	Rivermaya	**TONE KABATAAN1**
From The Inside	Linkin Park	**TONE FROMTHE1**
Hey Whatever	Westlife	**TONE HEYWHAT1**
Behind Blue Eyes	Limp Bizkit	**TONE BEHINDB1**
Get Busy	Sean Paul	**TONE GETBUSY1**
Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	**TONE BROKEN1**
Mr. Suave Version 2	Parokya ni Edgar	**TONE MRSUAVE21**
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	**TONE BUTTERCUP1**
Gold	Spandau Ballet	**TONE GOLD1**
Baby, I'm In Love	Thalia	**TONE BABYIM1**
Numb	Linkin Park	**TONE NUMB1**
Bakit Inibig Po Kita	Ladine Roxas	**TONE BAKITIBIG1**
Ignition	R. Kelly	**TONE IGNI1**
I Wanna Be With You	Mandy Moore	**TONE WANNABEW1**
Fallen	Sara McLachlan	**TONE FALLEN1**
White Flag	Dido	**TONE WHITEF1**
When I See You Smile	Bad English	**TONE CUSMILE1**
Sweet Dreams	Eurythmics	**TONE SWEETD1**
Feeling This	Blink 182	**TONE FEELINGT1**
Crazy Little Thing Called love	Michael Buble	**TONE CRAZYL1**

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THE HAPPY Silver couple during the Mass

A personal and memorable 25th

Friends are 'shocked' to learn that the couple kissed on their first date

Text by Pennie Azarcon-de la Cruz
Photos by Alexies Santiago

THE *VETSIN* did it.

More than 25 years after their first date, INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David credits the Chinese lunch she had with then Varsitarian staff artist-photographer Pie David for leading them to the altar on Dec. 9, 1978.

In their handcrafted "Book of Memories," the impressive giveaway during their silver anniversary bash this month, Rina writes: "From Sun Wah, we walked toward a theater in Avenida to take in a movie. In the darkness, Pie reached for my hand and, he says, when I didn't snatch it away, he felt emboldened and started kissing me. That's why he's always boasted that he never had to court me, since we became an item on just our first date."

The revelation was enough to merit shocked admonitions from her guests, some of them college friends from the straitlaced University of Santo Tomas in the mid-'70s: "(Gasp!) You kissed on your first date? You slut!"

But it was good-natured joshing all around, from the time the couple renewed their vows at the Archbishop's Residence at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City (where Rina's brother, Fr. Reynaldo "Boboy" Jimenez, SVD, officiated in place of the ailing Jaime Cardinal Sin, the celebrant 25 years back), to the buffet reception and dance at the pool side of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Rambunctious event

Notwithstanding the formal attire, the affair was one rambunctious reunion of friends and family. Most of the guests reprised their roles at the original rites 25 years ago except for a few whom, emcee Sandra Castro-Puno said, "Rina and Pie would like to apologize to. They were not invited to the wedding breakfast because of the limited guest list. At P25 per head at Silahis Hotel, *masyado na hong mahal yung* bill."

This time, no expense was spared as the couple's relatives, nay, whole clans, flew in from abroad. The preparations took more than a year and it showed in the well-appointed décor and touches both homey and elegant.

Her gown and that of daughter Miya, Rina says, were designed and made by Minette Santiago, "a good friend who operates from out of her White Plains home." Her hair and makeup were by Joseph of Salon on Pasay Road and his friend Sonny. "Both had to leave soon after to make up Assunta de Rossi," she couldn't resist adding. Pie's and son Pie-Pie's

A PERSONAL/ D2

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WITH friends and family

WITH the Cardinal after he gave our family his blessings

A personal and memorable 25th

A LOVING pose with bandleader Rex Grupo in background.

From page D1

barong of *piña* silk came all the way from Lumban, Laguna.

They wanted "a ceremony and celebration as personal and meaningful" as the Golden Wedding anniversary of Gilda and Marcelo Fernando, says Rina.

Their "Book of Memories" did just that. A slumbook-like collection of the couple's favorite photographs, songs, poetry, Rina's columns and articles and even family recipes, the anniversary souvenir sums up the best reasons to celebrate 25 years of partnership.

Past anthems

Music was a meaningful mix of past anthems from their courtship days ("Just the Way You Are," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Betcha by Golly Wow," "The Way You Look Tonight," "Danny's Song," "Have I Told You Lately that I Love You?") collected in a CD that was tucked inside the back sleeve of their "Book of Memories."

The Vox Pacis Male Chorale, which the couple first heard during a Mass at the Edsa Shrine, did the honors for the anniversary liturgy. For their reception, Rex Grupo and his band provided a romantic backdrop, and so did the New Voice Company who serenaded the "Vagina Monologues" occasional performer with the couple's theme songs.

Even the tables were personalized. Instead of numbers, the Davids distributed their guests among tables named after the qualities they wanted and had experienced from their union: Laughter. Pleasure ("Didn't you mean sexual pleasure?" friends giggled). Humor. Affection. Friendship. Acceptance. Faithfulness. The giveaways, small wooden ducks, especially spoke of that last trait. "Because ducks mate for life, they have long been a symbol of good and happy relationships," explains the "Book of Memories." Both Rina and Pie had been collecting all kinds of duck since the start of their conjugal union and, no doubt, the habit has worked its magic.

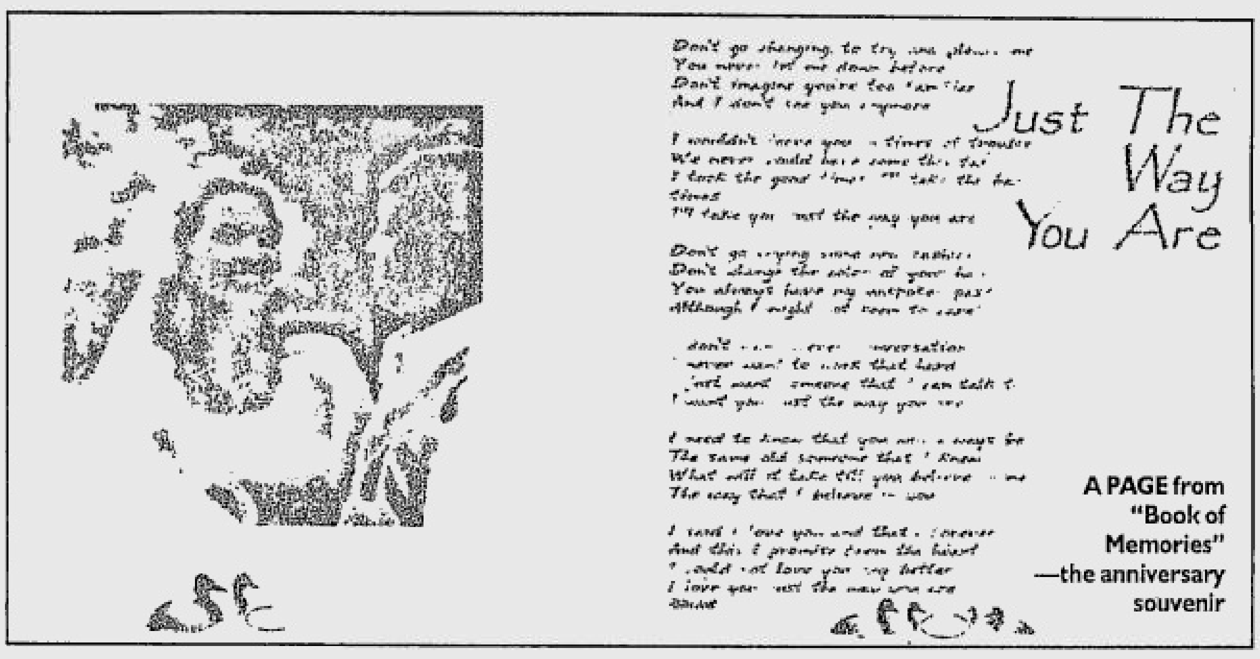
Old and new friends

On hand to toast the occasion were a heady mix of friends from college, from the media and the political arena where Rina has become an active participant, being president of the Abanse! Pinay political party. Among the guests were Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina, Urban Poor Secretary Ging Deles, Women's party list Rep. Patricia Sarenas, INQUIRER founding chair Eggie Apostol, former Tourism secretary and Abanse! chair Narzalina Lim, former ambassador Thelmo and columnist Bel Cunanan, women activists Remmy Rikken and Karen Tañada, and writer-publisher-producer Gilda Cordero-Fernando.

As the wine flowed, friends eagerly came forward to toast and roast the couple, harping on Rina's lack of domesticity and habitual tardiness as well as Pie's vaunted culinary skills ("the only assurance that kept us coming for seconds during their parties," says a college friend) and his one vice—fishing. "He has probably brought home a total of one kilo of fish during all our years of marriage," Rina confided once.

But easily the highlight of the moonlit evening (aside from Rina's going senti and breaking into tears while reading "The Seven-Fold Blessing" at the end of the Mass) was daughter Miya's touching gift for her parents' 25th. Miya earlier interpreted "The Prayer" with good friend Paola, daughter of photographer Noli and Peachy Yamsuan, liturgical coordinator at the anniversary Mass. But to her parents' surprise, this daughter, who always resisted performing solo in public, ended the short program with another ballet number. "It was a great gift and wonderful surprise," says Rina. "*Sulit talaga ang* years of *hatid-sundo sa* Ballet Manila!"

As Rina and Pie melted into each other's arms and into the dance floor, it was a cue for other couples to likewise celebrate the wonders of being in love and staying together.



Just The Way You Are

A PAGE from "Book of Memories" —the anniversary souvenir

MIYA performing "The Prayer" with Paola Yamsuan, daughter of Noli and Peachy Yamsuan.

WITH the David family, including Pie's sister Belle and her husband Danny Galvez (seated, second and third from right).

WITH Pilipina stalwarts (seated) Remmy Rikken, Ve Villavicencio with husband Danny, Karen Tanada, Ging Deles; (standing) Genna Selda and Hazel Suba.

WITH more friends: (seated) Marivi , Edwin and Pennie de la Cruz, Ida Bata; (standing) Anna Leah Sarabia, Marian Martin Layug and daughter Genine.

GREETING Speaker Joe de Venecia who arrived with a congressional delegation of his own.

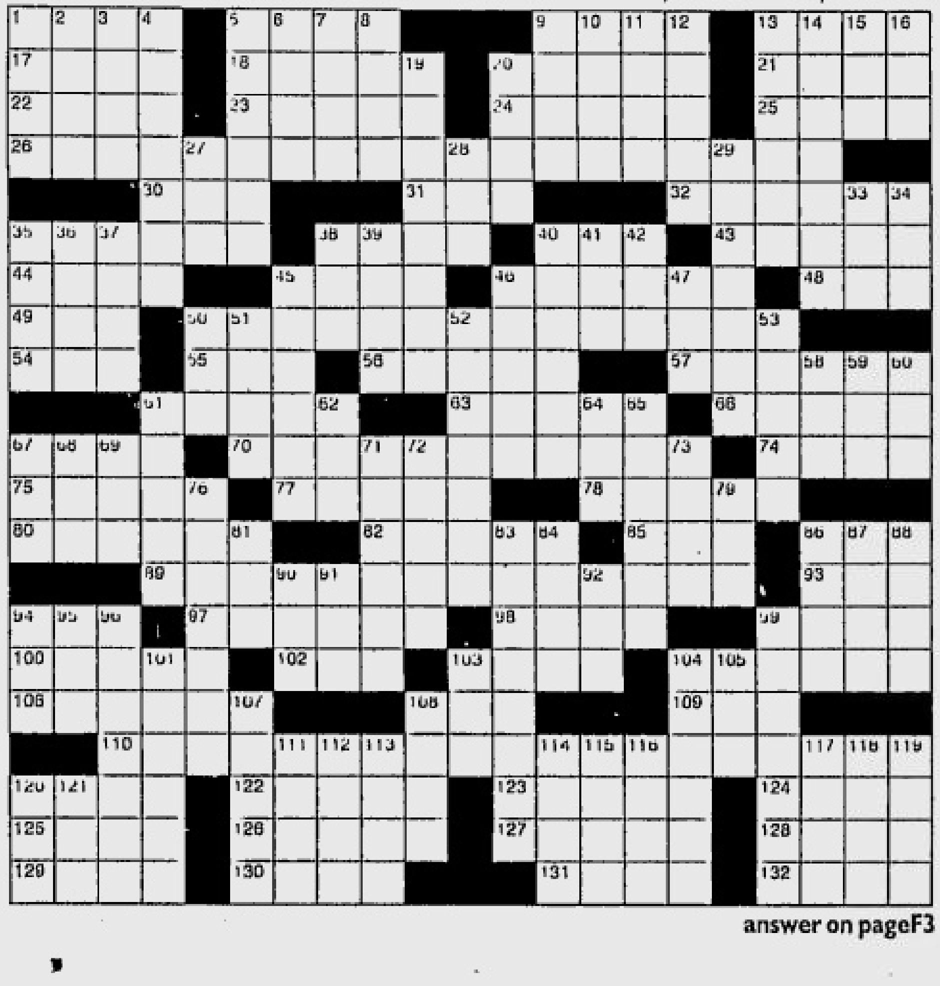
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

IN OTHER WORDS

ACROSS
1 Fowl feature
5 Castle material
9 Prunes
13 Prophet
17 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
18 Make Fido fetch
20 Deserve
21 See 116 Down
22 Inventive sort?
23 Skirt shape
24 Pointless
25 Architect Saarinen
26 Highs and lows
30 Parenthesis shape
31 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
32 Helmsmen
35 Songbird
38 Speck of dust
40 Cat's dog
43 Actor Ritchard
44 Prepares to plant
45 "How — Be Sure?" ('67 song)
46 Fandango kin
48 TV Tarzan
49 Castilian cry
50 Song and dance
54 Ump
55 Beast of burden
56 Kidney-related
57 Canada's capital
61 Declare
63 TV's "— Landing"
66 Baseball's Boone
67 Not care — (be indifferent)
70 Ins and outs
74 Quick-witted
75 Town
77 Statesman Dayan
78 Holmes' creator
80 Surround
82 Musical markings
85 Genetic info
86 Reggae's Marley
89 Hard and fast
93 — Bell Wells
94 Canine comment
97 Zigzagged
98 Trims the turf
99 Letters
100 "Two Women" star
102 Viscuso or Bando
103 Bus driver on "The Simpsons"
104 — out (ended gradually)
106 Mediterranean port
108 "Quiet!"
109 Absent
110 Black and White
120 Pant
122 Slugger Tony
123 Corday's prey
124 Defeat by a knockout
125 Heaps
126 It suits some
127 Feta marinade
128 Rational
129 Prohibits
130 Lion's den
131 Made wine divine
132 Markey or Bagnold

DOWN
1 Tranquil
2 Tony's cousin
3 Ditch under a drawbridge
4 Bedroom furniture
5 Spud component
6 Singer Guthrie
7 Catch red-handed
8 Producer De Laurentiis
9 — the Hyena (Capp character)
10 Spoken
11 Milk measurement
12 Make tea
13 Appropriate
14 It's hardly aesthetic
15 Be off base
16 Antique auto
19 Pessimistic
20 They squeak for themselves
27 Hosp. areas
28 Ferber's "— Palace"
29 Pasta-stuffing cheese
33 Up to, for short
34 Underhanded
35 Adventurer Heyerdahl
36 Aperture
37 Scuba site
38 TV's "— About You"
39 Lollapalooza
40 Hoi —
41 Stout relative
42 White's "Charlotte's —"
45 Wont
46 Chablis color
47 Ipanema's locale
50 Large tub
51 PDQ, politely
52 Most like midnight
53 "Dracula" prop
58 Exist
59 Distress
60 — Arbor, MI
61 Bit of parsley
62 "Xanadu" rockers
64 Smidgen
65 Stallion sounds
67 Beame or Burrows
68 Director Howard
69 Cal. page
71 77 Across' country
72 Common contraction
73 Out of — (incompatible)
76 Adult
79 — -di-dah
81 Fawn's mother
83 Charles Sherwood Stratton
84 Primer pooch
86 Prejudice
87 Garfield's pal
88 Like Mussorgsky's mountain
90 Aachen article
91 Wheeling's st.
92 — Jima
94 Clerical garb
95 Singer Tommy
96 Shudder
99 Artist Henri
101 Lets out the lava
103 Exultant cry
104 Showed sullenness
105 "Ben- —"
107 Mythical being
108 Look over
111 Literary pseudonym
112 High-hemmed
113 At any time
114 — avis
115 Math subject
116 With 21 Across, Bronte heroine
117 Coveleski or Musial
118 Singer Braxton
119 Floored it
120 Yak
121 Menu phrase



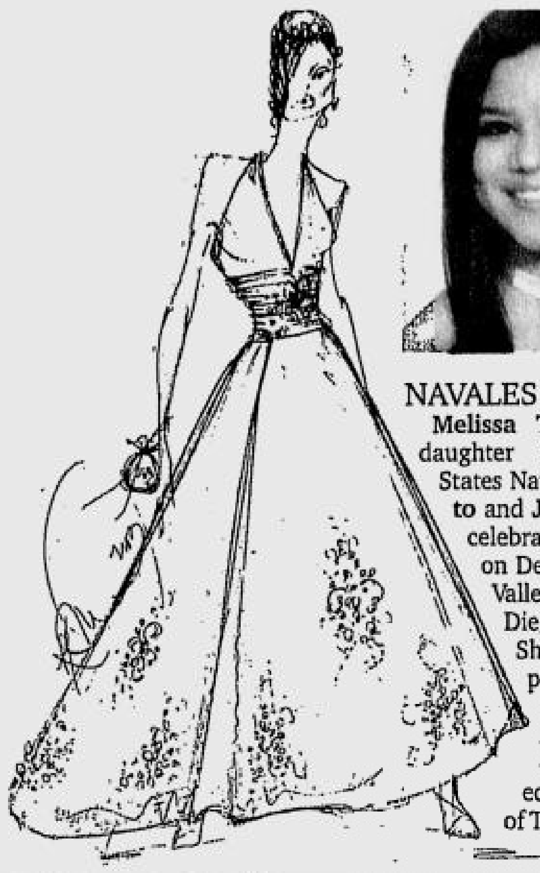
answer on pageF3

ALVAREZ-VARGAS

Wendell Alvarez, son of **Julito** and **Dionisia Alvarez**, exchanged vows with **Marina Melissa Vargas**, daughter of **Jorge Jose Vargas** and **Marlyn Sy**, on Dec. 12 at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the Coconut Palace. The bride wore a **Paul Rex Mateo** gown.

NARCISO DEBUT

Dobie Ariane Tolinero Narciso celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 14 at the Grand Ballroom of the Dynasty Court Hotel and Restaurant in Cagayan de Oro. She is the only daughter of engineer **Sofrino** and **Patria Narciso**. The debutante, a Nursing student at the Liceo de Cagayan University, wore a full balloon pink gown accented with full beads created by Edelyn's Fashion. **Manny Orquiola** was event coordinator.

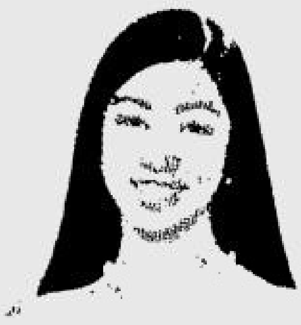


NAVALES DEBUT

Melissa Tolentino Navales, daughter of retired United States Navy personnel **Roberto** and **Julieta Navales**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Dec. 31 at the Mission Valley Hilton Hotel in San Diego, California, US. She will wear a halter princess-cut gown in iridescent shantung silk with Swarovski cystal accents created by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.

CASTRO-CAISIP

Police Senior Inspector **Rodolfo D. Castro, Jr.**, son of **Rodolfo T. Castro, Sr.** and **Rosita D. Castro**, exchanged vows with Dr. **Sherry Ann V. Caisip**, daughter of Police Superintendent **Rodolfo N. Caisip, Sr.** and **Carmelita V. Caisip**, Dec. 13 at the Archbishop's Chapel in Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong. Bishop **Socrates Villegas** officiated the ceremony.



JACINTA DEBUT

Bianca Marie Jacinta, daughter of **Bing** and **Jojo Crisologo**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 7 at the Top of the Citi, Citibank Tower, Makati. She wore a **Len Guiao** creation.

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A Message from TUSERAN FORTE.

Beat That Cough

Brought to you by Tuseran Forte Capsule

Cough is one of the most bothersome conditions one can encounter. It brings so much inconvenience to a person. Yet no matter how unwelcome and involuntary it is, a cough is not itself an illness, but rather a protective reflex. Normal coughing is actually important to keep your throat and airways clear of irritants. It is one of the body's natural responses to the presence of "aliens".

What makes us cough?

The most common cause of cough is an irritant invading the air passages such as dust, food particles, smoke, or nasal secretions. Excessive phlegm or secretions due to respiratory tract infections or diseases such as flu, bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis or lung cancer may also trigger a cough.

Generally, the coughing reflex occurs when the membranes lining the respiratory tract emit excessive mucus or phlegm. These secretions help to protect your airways from infections and irritants by trapping and flushing out bacteria and foreign particles. Coughing is your body's way of getting rid of this accumulation.

How to beat that cough

Since cough may be a sign of a disease, its significance rests with its cause. To know how to treat a cough, you must decide what is triggering it. If you think that your cough might have a serious cause, you should seek the help of a health care professional right away.

- Drink lots of fluids. Use water, fruit juices, hot soup, etc. These help moisten the air passages and liquefy mucus. They will also soothe a dry, sore throat.
- Stop smoking and stay away from places where second-hand smoke is present.
- If a cough won't stop, try taking a hot shower or inhaling steam from a bowl of hot water. These will liquefy your mucus and decrease the irritation in your lungs.
- Try sucking on lozenges, chewing gum, or keeping a piece of hard candy in your mouth.

The power of Tuseran Forte Capsule

Of the many cough remedies out in the market, Tuseran Forte Capsule stands out. It is formulated to effectively relieve cough together with its most common accompanying symptoms: cold, fever and headache. The multi-symptom relief brought about by Tuseran Forte Capsule makes it one of the most popular over-the-counter cough remedies. It was recently awarded as Top Cough & Cold Capsule Medicine Brand at the 2003 National Consumers Quality Awards, a further testament to its leverage as the authority in cough prevention.

When to see a Physician

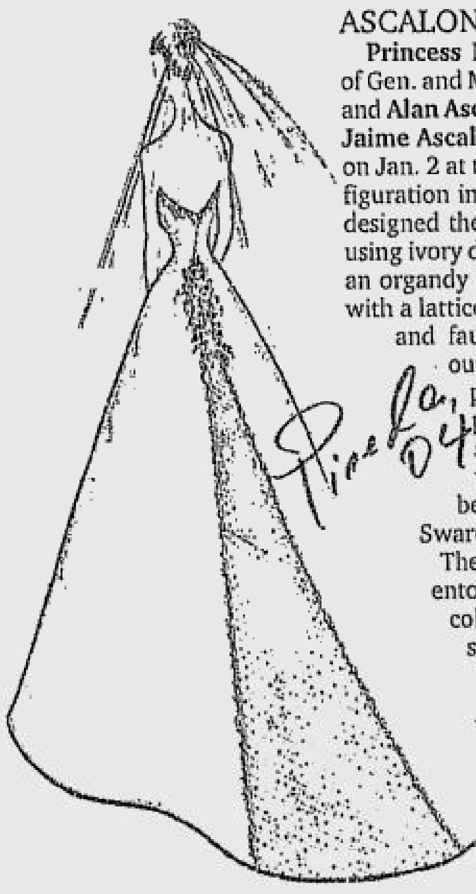
- If your cough lasts for more than a week
- If you have a fever of over 38°C
- If you have wheezing, rapid breathing, shortness of breath, or other respiratory difficulty
- If you have chest pain either when you cough or when you are not coughing
- If you cough out phlegm that is green, brown, yellow or rust colored, or if you cough out blood
- If the cough is severe or comes in episodes that you can't control
- If you have night sweats

Prevention Is Best

The best way to beat cough is to prevent it. Cough is an indicator of an unhealthy lifestyle. Therefore, if you don't want to be bothered by cough and its accompanying symptoms, get back to basics. Eat right. Sleep well. Exercise. Reduce stress. Quit smoking. Stay positive.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



ASCALON-MANAGUELOD

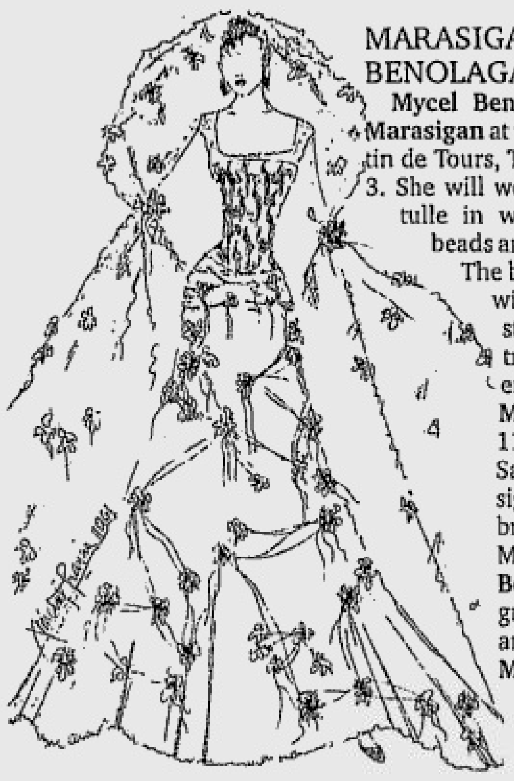
Princess Managuelod, daughter of Gen. and Ms. **Lucas Managuelod,** and **Alan Ascalon,** son of Mr. and Ms **Jaime Ascalon,** will exchange vows on Jan. 2 at the Church of the Transfiguration in Batangas. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's strapless gown using ivory duchess satin. It features an organdy back panel embellished with a lattice-pattern of bugle beads and faux pearls. The gown is outlined with a vine leaf pattern of caviar beads, pailletes and rhinestones. A veil of double width illusion tulle will be held by floral-shaped Swarovski crystals.

The female members of the entourage will wear plum-colored gowns in Thai and shantung silk.

Reception will follow at the Canyon Woods Resort, Laurel, Batangas.

SEGISMUNDO-HERNANDEZ

Caezar C. Segismundo, son of **Tito** and **Mercedes Segismundo,** married **Christina Wong Hernandez,** daughter of **Natividad Wong Hernandez,** in a garden wedding last Dec. 6 at Algon Resort in Cabuyao, Laguna. Reception was held in the same place.

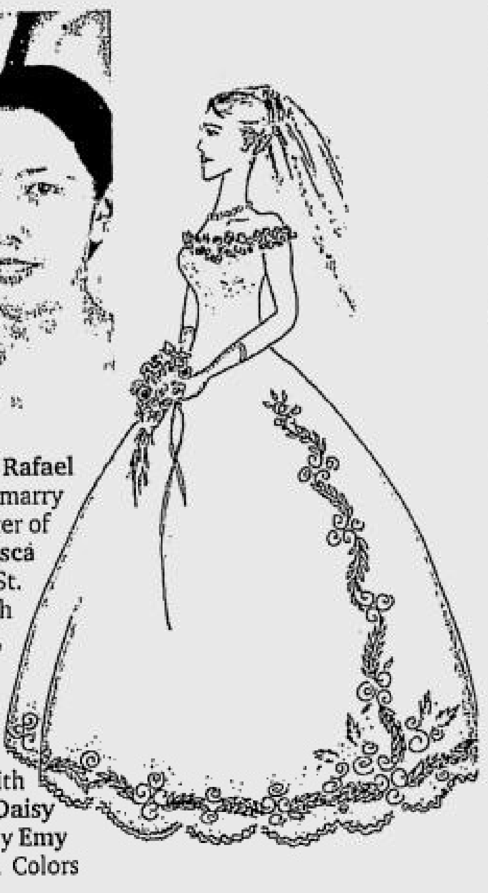


MARASIGAN-BENOLAGA

Mycel Benolaga will wed **Leo Marasigan** at the Basilica of St. Martin de Tours, Taal, Batangas on Jan. 3. She will wear a gown of double tulle in white and silver with beads and sequins in between. The bodice will be adorned with different rhinestones and the veil and train will feature flowers in different sizes. **Michael Francis,** 110161 of Monteville, San Luis, Batangas designed the gown. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Ms **Silverio Benolaga** while the groom is the son of Mr. and Ms **Vivencio Marasigan.**

LIMTONG-MADERA

Harry James Huang-Limtong Jr., son of Mr. and Ms **Harry Limtong**, will marry **Vanessa Cham-Madera,** daughter of Mr. and Ms **Ambrosio Madera,** today at the Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. Reception will be at the Makati Shangri-La. **Paul Cabral** designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.



SURAT-MANALO

Nelson Surat, son of **Rafael III** and **Goria Surat,** will marry **Chinita Manalo,** daughter of **Ernesto** and **Francisca Manalo,** today at the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan. Reception will be at the Ciudad Fernandino Hotel. The bride will wear a beaded off-shoulder gown with long train designed by **Daisy Lim Ang** and executed by **Emy Saranilla** of the United Colors Wedding Ensemble.

MANLANGIT-RAMIREZ

Christopher Manlangit, son of engineer **Ignacio** and Dr. **Melinda Manlangit**, will marry **Maricel Ramirez**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Expectation** Ramirez, on Dec. 27 at St. Therese Child of Jesus Church, UP Los Baños. Reception will be at the Makiling Ballroom, Splash Mountain.

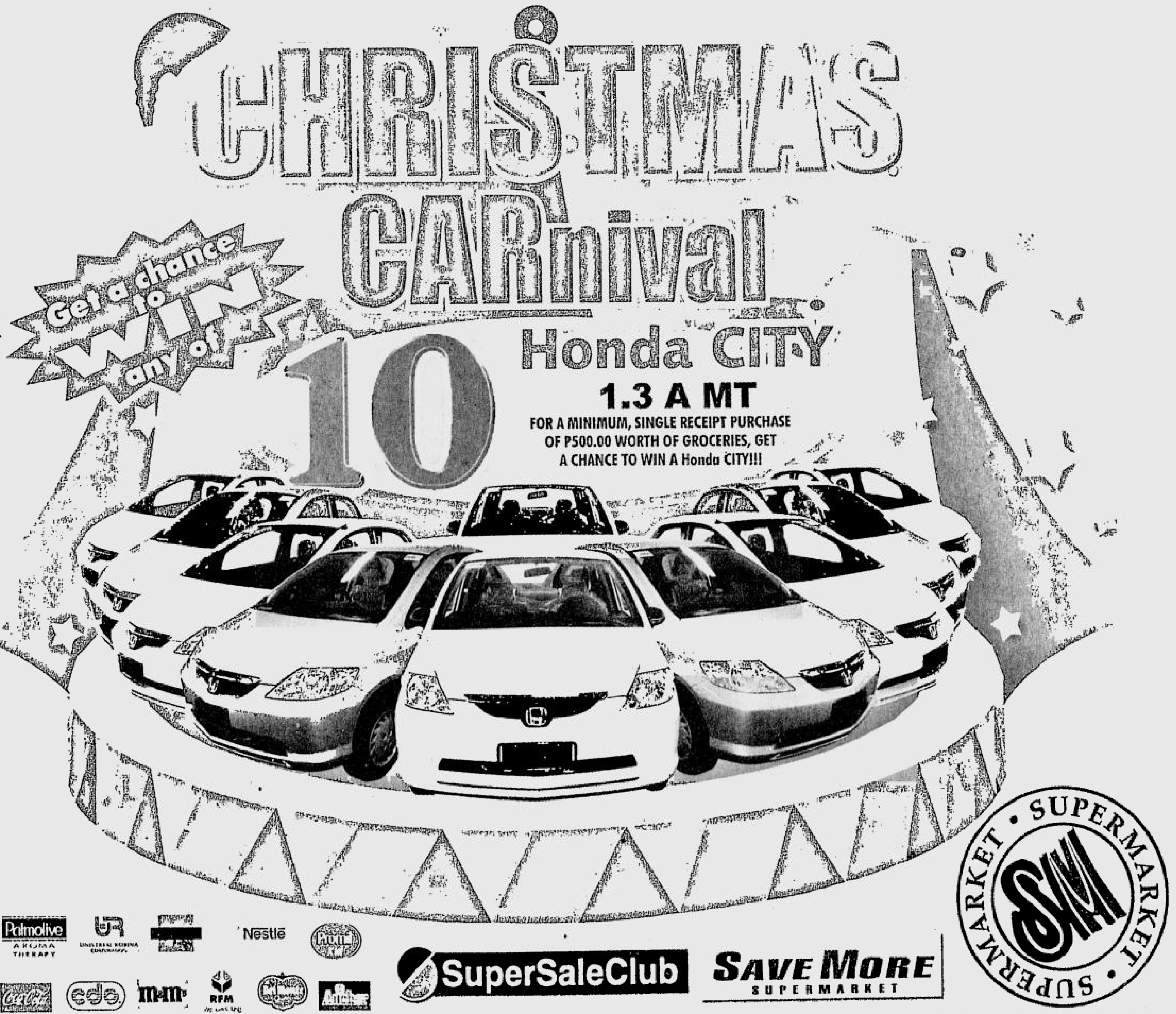
QUILOP-LANUZA

Raymund Jose G. Quilop, son of **Teresita Gabas vda. de Quilop,** married recently **Jobeth A. Lanuza,** daughter of engineer **Fabian D. Lanuza Jr.** and **Crispina A. Lanuza,** at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine in New Manila, Quezon City.

The bride wore a drop off-shoulder, princess cut and fully beaded, glossy off-white silk gazar gown with a detachable cathedral train and tulle veil with scattered Swarovski crystals. The entourage wore gowns in wine motif. **Arsenia F. Tedoco** of Senya's Fashion Design made the gown.

MANAOAG-HONRADA

Ruy B. Manaoag, son of **Jose** and **Teodosia Manaoag**, married **Sheryll S. Honrada**, daughter of **Isagani** and **Emillie Honrada**, Dec. 20 at the Holy Cross Church, Tanza, Cavite.



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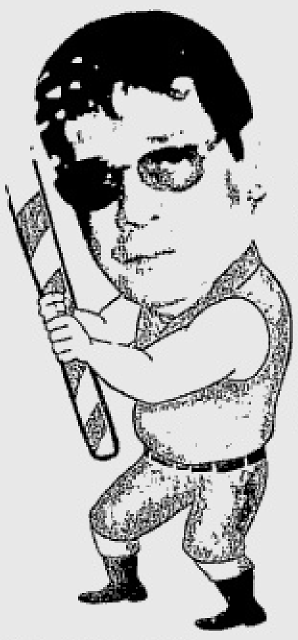
Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Top 10 guests we'd love to ask to our New Year's Eve party

What could be more sensational than rubbing elbows with these personalities when you say goodbye to the old and usher in the new?



10 FPJ—We might just believe, after a good many rounds of ice-cold beer, that the future's so bright we gotta wear shades, too.

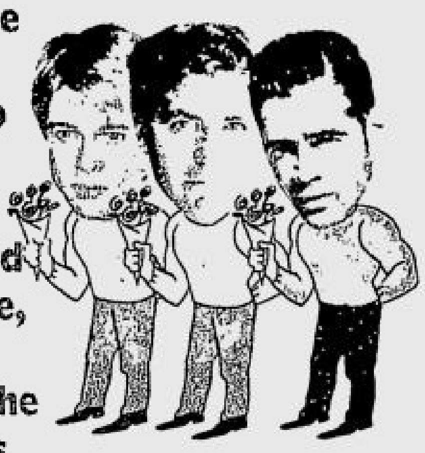
9 Sadako—It would be interesting to see how the creepy girl from the well will fix herself up for a festive night out.

8 The characters of "Sex and the City"—You have a lawyer who can take up your case, a publicist who can put a good spin on your image, an art dealer you can count on for the party's aesthetics and a sex columnist who can give you the seven easy steps to orgasm. What more can you ask?

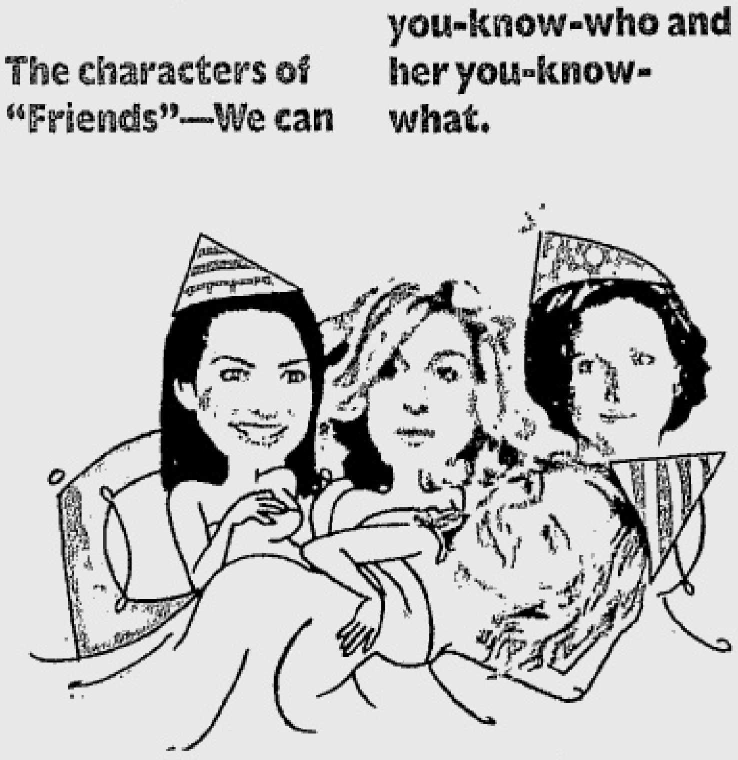
7 The characters of "Friends"—We can all reminisce about their 10-season hit TV show and brag after the party about hanging with Ross, Rachel, Chandler, Phoebe, Monica and Joey.

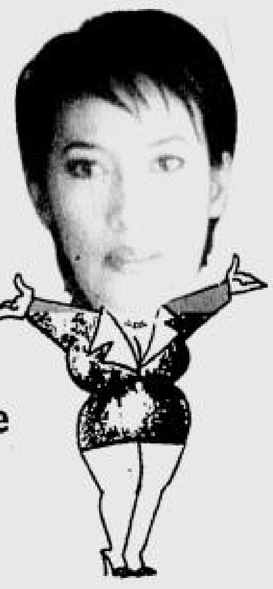
6 Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal—To help us brush up on our Spanish over a dinner of burritos and tequila, before watching "Y Tu Mama Tambien" again and again and again.

5 The trio of Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Colin Farrell, and not one less, please—Wow! How can you not drop dead from the surplus gorgeousness?

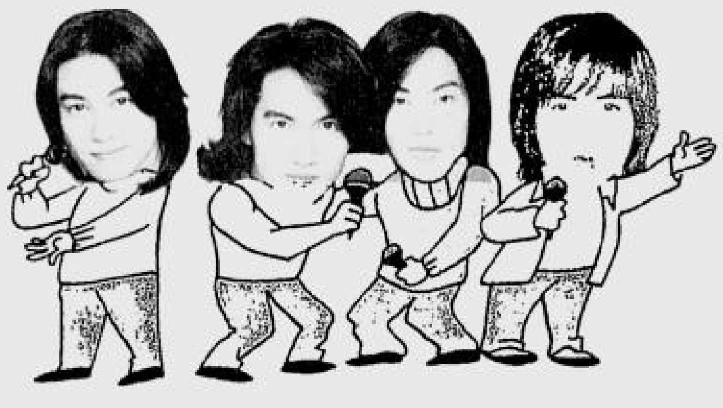


4 Boy Abunda—He can give us the lowdown on his celebrity friends, especially you-know-who and her you-know-what.

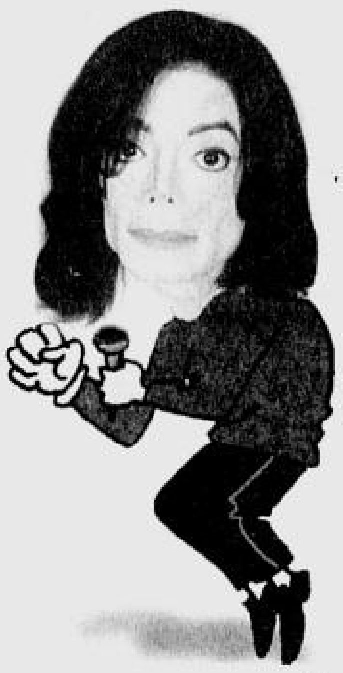




3 Ai Ai de las Alas and Jim Carrey—Can you imagine what a crack up they're going to be once they start trading barbs, or crossing chins?



2 F4—and we'll charge for invites. Ka-ching!



1 Michael Jackson (in full freak-o regalia) and Gollum (in a really vile mood)—locked up in the same room. We can all can watch them through a one-way mirror. Hmmm, my precious!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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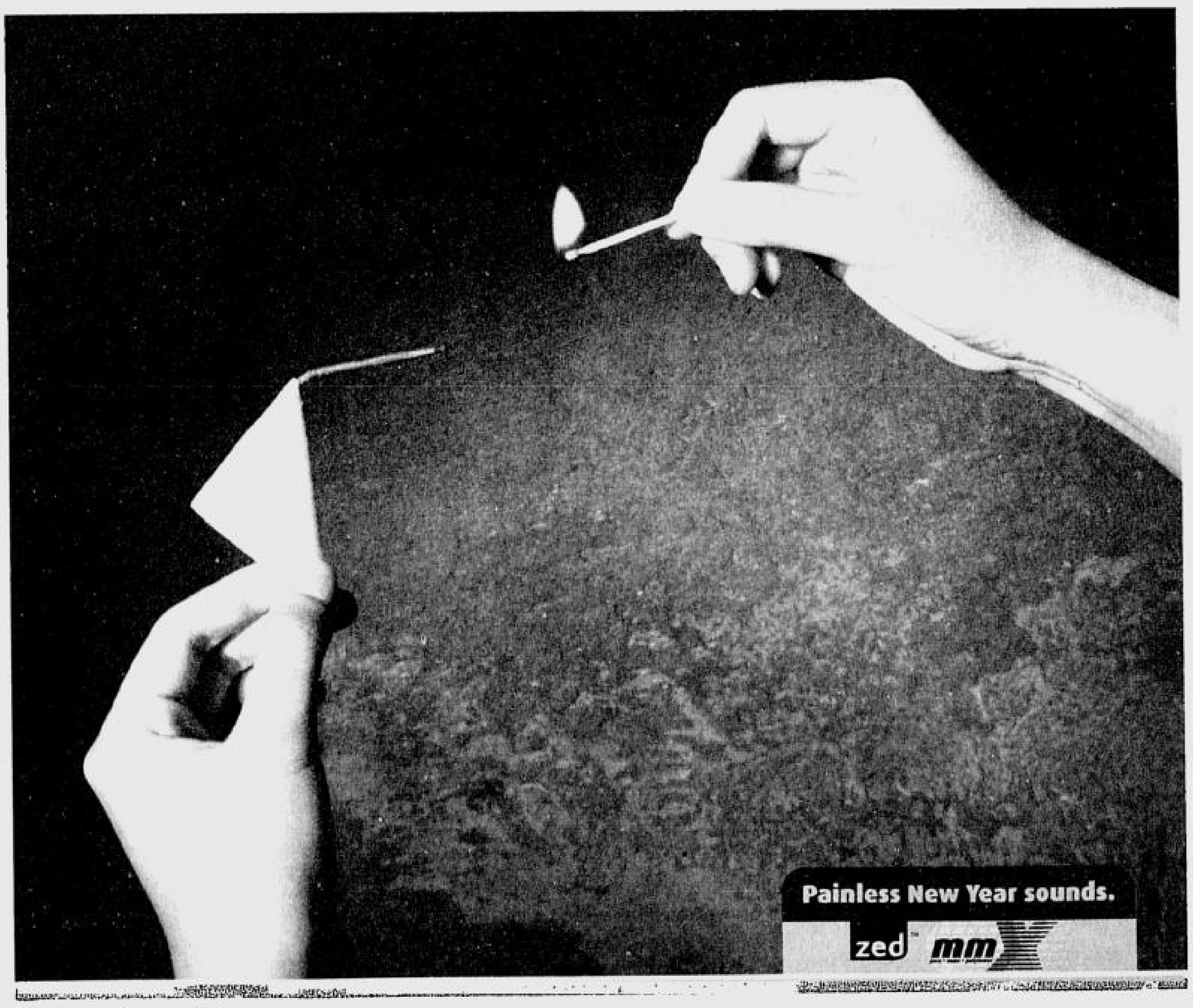

Explosive polytones.

Title	Artist	Keywords
Auld Lang Syne	*Traditional*	**MTONE AULDLANG**
Ave Maria	*Charlotte Church*	**MTONE AVEMARIA**
The Chipmunk Song	*The Chipmunks*	**MTONE CHIPMUNK**
Crazy Little Thing Called Love	*Michael Bublé*	**MTONE CRAZYL**
Silent Night	*Destiny's Child*	**MTONE SILENTN**
Mr. Suave	*Parokya ni Edgar*	**MTONE MRSUAVE**
Numb	*Linkin Park*	**MTONE NUMB**
Hands Up	*Black Eyed Peas*	**MTONE HANDSUP**
Have It All	*Foo Fighters*	**MTONE HAVIT**
One Kiss	*B2K*	**MTONE ONEKISS**
Rock The Boat	*Aaliyah*	**MTONE ROCKTHE**
For Once In My Life	*Michael Bublé*	**MTONE 4ONCE**
Rain On Me	*Ashanti*	**MTONE RAINON**
Rubberneckin	*Elvis*	**MTONE RUBBER**
So Yesterday	*Hilary Duff*	**MTONE SOYDAY**
Trouble	*Pink*	**MTONE TROUBLEP**
Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**MTONE WERISLUV**
In The End	*Linkin Park*	**MTONE INTHEEND**
I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**MTONE IBE**
Asereje	*Las Ketchup*	**MTONE ASEREJE**
Thoia Thoing	*R. Kelly*	**MTONE THOIA**
Spaghetti Song	*Sexbomb*	**MTONE SPAG**
Turning Japanese	*Vapors*	**MTONE JAPANIS**
If You're Not The One	*Daniel Bedingfield*	**MTONE IFYOURNOT**
Somewhere I Belong	*Linkin Park*	**MTONE SOMEWHERE**

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MTONE COUNTDOWN
MTONE FIRECRAK
MTONE FIREWORKS
MTONE HNYEAR
MTONE KWITIS
MTONE KILLJOY
MTONE NYSONG
MTONE NOISE
MTONE PANIC

NOTE:
Sound effects only work on Nokia 7650 and Sony Ericsson P800.

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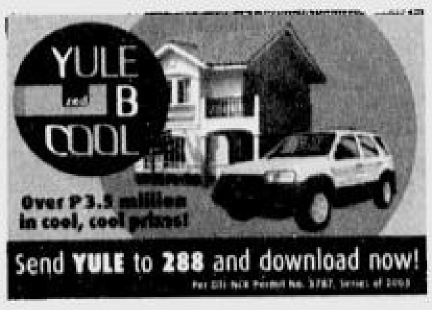

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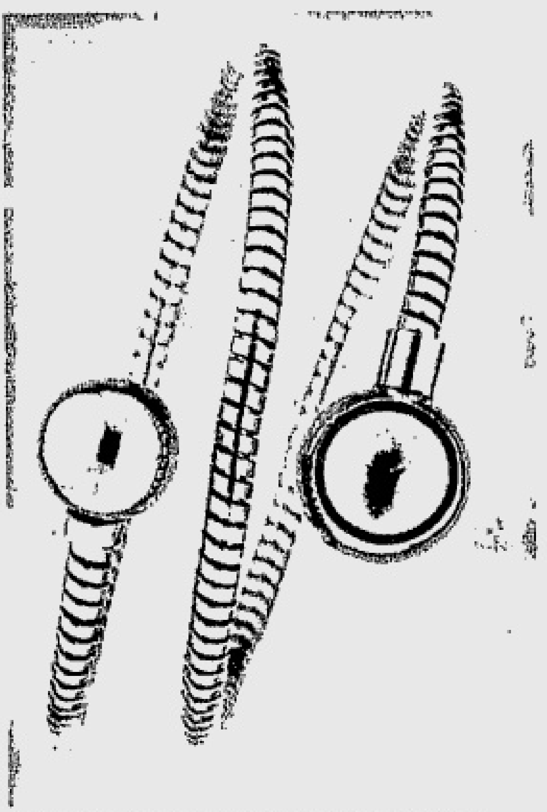
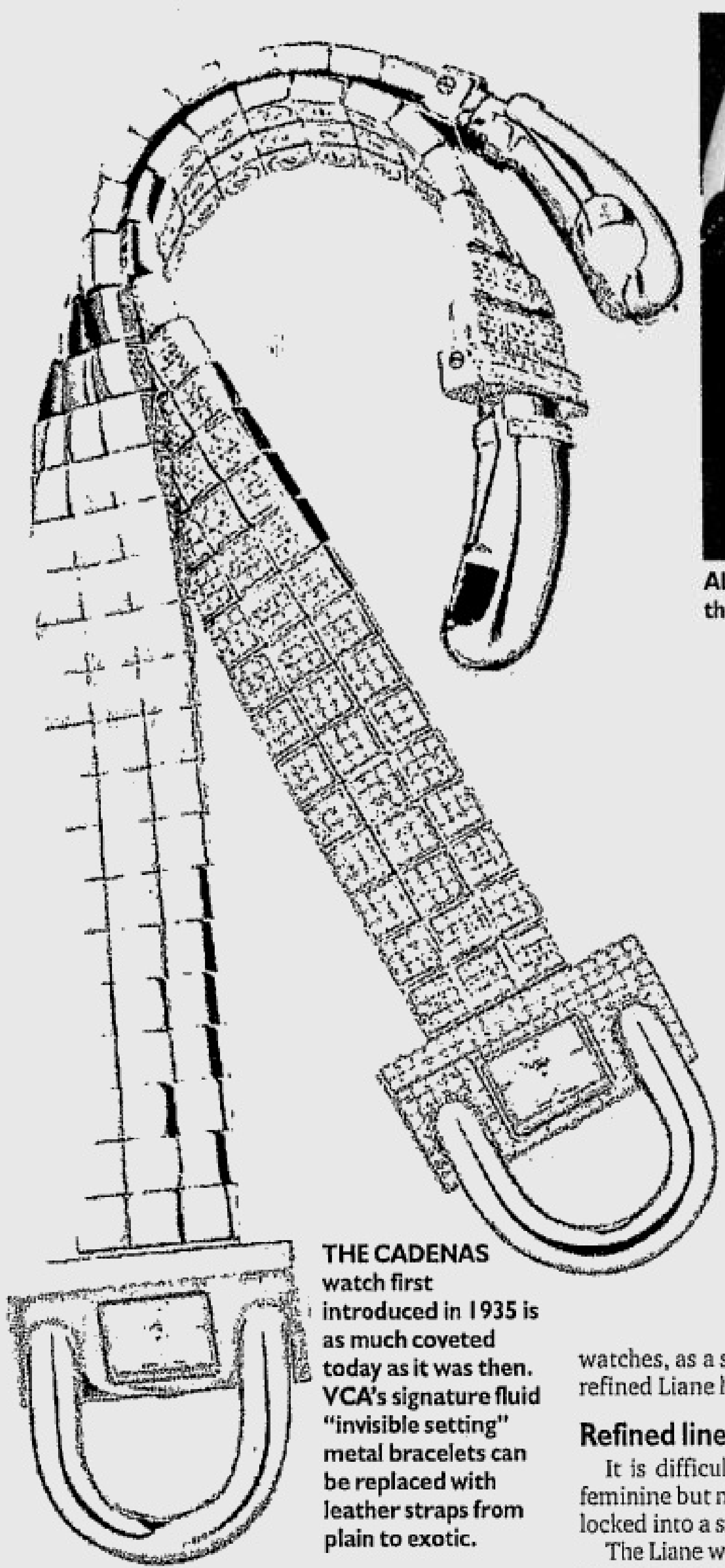
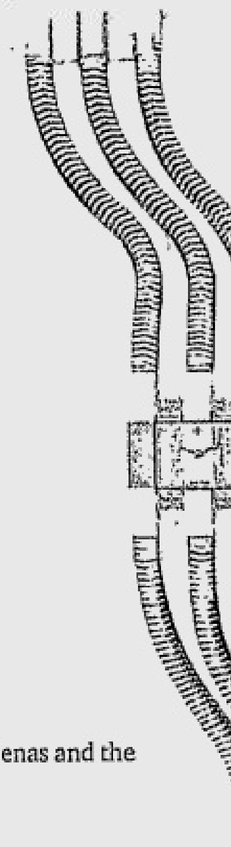


AS the name suggests, the Liane Serpentine sexily snakes around your arm while keeping precise time.



THE CADENAS watch first introduced in 1935 is as much coveted today as it was then. VCA's signature fluid "invisible setting" metal bracelets can be replaced with leather straps from plain to exotic.

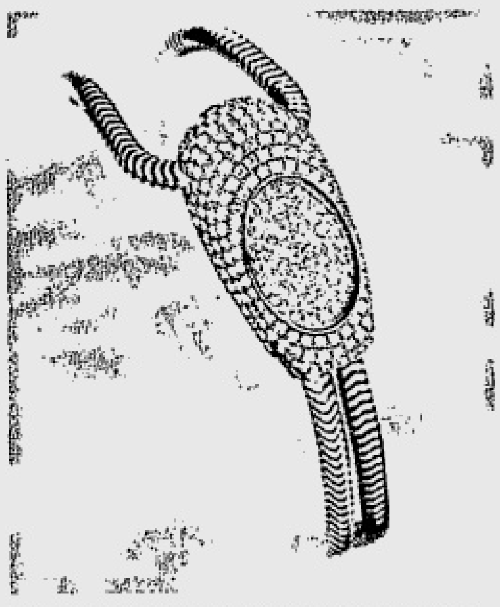
ALMOST 70-years-old and still partying: VCA's timepieces prove their archival style unrivalled even today.



A WATCH of unparalleled luxury and functional style, the Liane with three rows of snake chains is feminine as it is practical.

Pride in time

Van Cleef and Arpels has remained true to its roots as a supreme house of jewelry timepieces



LIANE Boucle is all about uncompromising femininity with its fluid snake chain watch strap and tear drop oval case.

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IN TODAY'S competitive fashion business, many a prestigious house has sold out its name to make it in the market, in the process losing its history or what it came to be known for.

However, there are still a few that stand proud, such as Van Cleef and Arpels (VCA). Since 1906, the reputable Paris jeweler has been synonymous with inimitable and functional design at a price.

Despite being known for its much copied imprimatur since the 1920s of "invisible setting" (patented in 1933) in jewelry design, little is known of its highly notable contributions to the horology trade since 1910, blending the preciousness of jewels with the precision of time keeping.

This is why VCA labels its timepieces as "jewels that tell time."

One of VCA's contributions to the world is so basic we could not imagine a day without it—the wristwatch. The '20s and most of the '30s saw the use of pocket and pendant watches. However, it was a VCA wristwatch with a dial made out of a $20 coin in 1930 that changed the way the world looked at and wore time.

Jewelry experts say some of the best design years in VCA's history occurred from 1930 to 1940. Its legendary Cadenas watch was launched in 1935 and has since been a mainstay of the collection. The Snake Chain, which inspired watch bracelets, was launched in 1936, preceding Bulgari's Tubogas by about 10 years.

This month, the exclusive jeweler La Estrella de Norte brings to Manila some of the best-selling pieces in styles rich in fashion history from the VCA collections at Parklane Jewellers, Inc. (G/F Glorietta 3, Ayala Center Makati, tel. 8186122/23)

Cadence of Cadenas

If there is anything that epitomizes magnificence and simplicity all at once, it has to be the Cadenas and its narrower version, the Cadenas S. Functionality and suppleness contribute to its elegance in design with the ingenuity of a watch that fastens like a lock.

Seventy-five (for the S-version) to 125 (for the classic Cadenas) flat, square links form a fluid and flexible checkered metal band that caresses the wrist like a precious bracelet.

The watches come in yellow gold, white gold, with or without diamonds, inspired by the classic jewelry designs of VCA.

Snaking through style

Since its launch in 1936, the VCA snake chain has been copied and reinvented by many designers for different uses such as *minaudieres* (another VCA jewelled invention as an alternative to the evening bag) in the 1930s, and framed handbags of the 1950s, bracelets and the house's famous passé-partout, now part of the archives and doing the rounds in international boutiques.

The passé-partout was a wartime (as in World War II since we've had so many since then) solution to maximizing the use of jewelry, giving one piece many uses such as necklace, brooch, bracelet and belt worn together or separately.

The snake chain still figures prominently in VCA collections, including watches, as a strap for Cadenas and the refined Liane line.

Refined lines

It is difficult to find a watch that is feminine but not too fragile that you are locked into a singular lady-like look.

The Liane with three snake chains may just fill this tall order. Following the rules of hi-lo or contrast fashion, it combines opposites to create a stylish look. Its rectangular case in itself is rigid, but a mother-of-pearl face and a sprinkling of diamonds soften the linear structure.

The Liane Boucle, on the other hand, is uncompromisingly feminine and inarguably refined. The case is a graceful oval evoking a teardrop gently held by two rows of the more rounded and delicate version of the snake chain.

All Liane watches are jewelry in themselves, yet nothing screams "jet-setting" hippie more than the Liane Serpentine, which, as the name implies, has a stiffer snake chain that wraps around your arm or wrist like—you guessed it!

Two gold spheres anchor each end of the bracelet, one of which is the watch with a concave bombe crystal which gives the mother-of-pearl face a magnified effect.

Time for wood

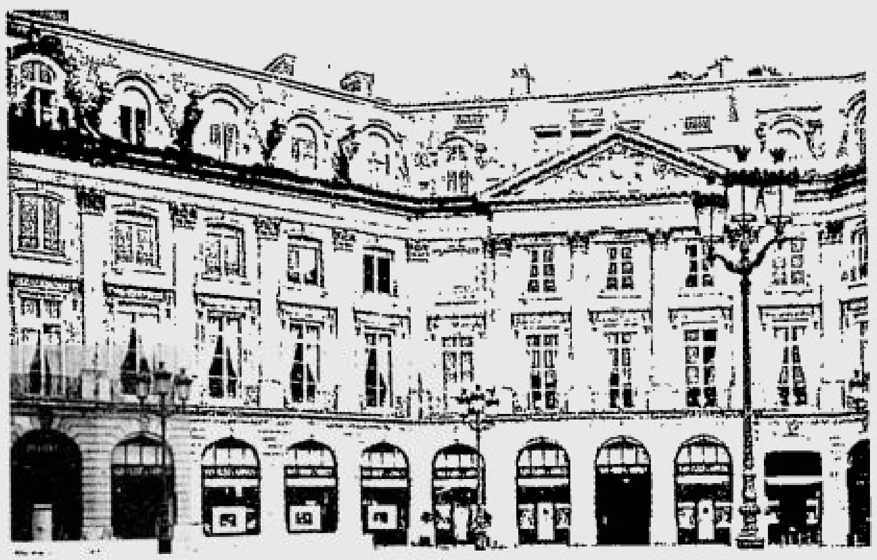
In its long history of creativity and innovation, VCA has often combined gold and precious stones with materials such as coral, lacquer, ceramic and wood.

The VCA tradition of pairing precious woods and gold continues in the First pendant watch with its distinctive architectural style.

The dense, extremely smooth, deep brown ebony and three rows of diamonds set in white gold frame a grey mother-of-pearl dial. The entire timepiece is held on both sides by white gold snake chains secured by small beads. The back made of white gold can be engraved and the piece, when worn close to the heart, makes for a supremely elegant good luck charm.

In today's lifestyle where fashion, beauty and even furniture have multiuses, doesn't it just make sense to have a special timepiece that is also a jewel? It's about time.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com



SINCE 1906, Van Cleef and Arpels has kept its address at 22 Place Vendome in Paris.

Countdown to 2004

GOINGS ON

STA. LUCIA East Grand Mall welcomes the New Year with fun activities. On Dec. 30, a mascots parade will be held around the mall at 4 p.m. At 7 p.m., Parokya ni Edgar will perform at the open car park. A display of fireworks will be held at 10 p.m.

REUNION. Caloocan High School Batch 1970 will hold an alumni homecoming on Jan. 10, 2004, 5 p.m., at Chi Yu Seafood Restaurant at 10th Avenue East, Caloocan City. Interested parties may call Ed Verzola at 09193523169 or 9298877, Manny Zapanta 09189330907, or Lito Adawag at 09169414895, or just get their tickets at the reception area on the day of the reunion.

SALE. AVSurfer brings the Cinema@Home exhibit to the Glorietta Activity Center until Dec. 30. Shoppers will be treated to zero-interest deals, freebies and promos. There will also be live entertainment from chorale groups, bands and solo artists. Call 8431541.

TRADE FAIR. Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers will hold the 2nd Philippine Fiesta Fair on Jan. 9-Feb. 1. Call 8203862/8266732/8293195.

EXHIBIT. The Cultural Center of the Philippines and Japan Foundation present "Beyond the Surface-Japanese Style of Making Things" exhibit until Jan. 8, 2004 at CCP's Bulwagang Juan Luna.

EXPO. The 11th TravelTour Expo will be held Feb. 6, 7 and 8, 2004 at Megatrade Halls 1 and 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 5520026 to 29 or e-mail traveltourexpo@fastmail.i-next.net.

CLASSES. Ayala Museum offers gift certificates for its 1st quarter classes for children. They are Drawmagination: Drawing for Kids (Jan. 17-March 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), Play Art for Toddlers (Jan. 17-March 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), Arts and Crafts (Feb. 14-March 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.). All classes are held at Ayala Museum in Glorietta 2 on Sundays. Call 8108407.

SEARCH. The British Council has launched a new award for International Young Publisher of the Year, which will culminate on March 15, 2004. The successful candidate will be sent to the United Kingdom on Feb. 29-March 17, 2004 to visit Scotland, Wales and other regional publishing centers. Those interested should submit their resumes on or before Jan. 9 to the British Council at the 10/F, Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig or e-mail Susan.Arcega@britishcouncil.org.ph. Interviews will be conducted on Jan. 12-14 with the final selection on Jan. 18. Call 9141011 to 14.

EVENTS. Clubber's Guide features R & B music every Tuesday; Ladies' Night and ledge dancing contest, Wednesdays; guest DJs, Thursdays; Pure Hip-Hop, Fridays; Booty Shaking challenge and bomb drinking race with dishes to be chosen on the house, Saturdays. Clubber's Guide is located at 610 Julio Nakpil St., Malate, Manila. Call 4501592.

PARTY. Makati Shangri-La will hold a New Year's eve party at the Lobby Lounge. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. with dinner buffet. At 9 p.m., the Spirit of 67 will perform. At 12 midnight, the traditional countdown begins. Call 8400884.

INDUCTION. The officers and board of trustees of the Alliance of Retired Postal Employees and Senior Citizens Inc. were inducted recently at the Philpost in Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila. Some of the inductees are Bienvenido M. Lim-Rañola, president; Andres M. Boquiren, vice president; Benjamin N. Basa, secretary; Benjamin R. Moncayo, treasurer; and Mamerto S. Rogado, auditor. The occasion marked the observance of Retirees' Day during the Postal Consciousness Week at the Philpost.

ACTIVITIES. White Rock in Subic holds a series of activities until Jan. 3. Pasta Night happens on Dec. 28. Grill Night by the Beach is on Dec. 29. On Dec. 31, there'll be a live band, fireworks display and lots of dancing and singing. Fiesta Filipiniana Night will be held on Jan. 1. On Jan. 2, there's Polynesian BBQ Night. The Best of All Theme Nights will be held on Jan. 3. During these activities, all meals of guests will be provided with complimentary wine and fruit punch at Sunset Café. Call 4212781/4212782/421-2785.

DINNER-DANCE. Lot owners of Taal View Heights were treated to a dinner-dance recently at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club.

WORKSHOP. Non-Filipino professionals, age 22 and above, are invited to join a workshop on improving English to enable them to cope better in their work or in their business in the country. The workshop will be conducted once a week by Tower Book House at its office at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Call 8156925/8154938.

PROMO. Shop at Robinsons Supermarket this Christmas and get a chance to win great prizes. Over one million worth of prizes are at stake in the "Engrandeng Pamasko para sa Pamilya" promo which ends Jan. 15. Prizes include two Honda City cars, and kitchen, entertainment and bedroom showcases. Just make a single P300 purchase until Jan. 15 at any Robinsons Supermarket branch to get one raffle coupon.

Treasures discovered in a book

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE BOOK "A Stun of Islands" written and published recently by cultural and travel writer Amadis Ma. Guerrero inspires me to share with you the treasures he discovered.

There are the old churches Amadis describes as very beautiful since they have remained untouched by reconstruction. They still retain their Romanesque or neo-Gothic or Baroque origins. He mentions churches in Abra, Daraga, Albay and the Sta. Barbara Church in Iloilo, among others.

But what is most inspiring is how Amadis gathered materials in three years with the help of W & G and Aboitiz Super Ferry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and Raya Media Services.

Amadis, who calls himself "an indefatigable traveler," was inspired by "A Stun of Jewels," a poem by Carlos A. Angeles. Thus, he called his book "A Stun of Islands."

Francisco Verano did the cover using a photograph taken by Tom Epperson. Photographers whose works were used in the book include Rex Toledo, Benjie Espartero, Laling Quimbao and Joel Sarmenta.

Some of the articles were previously published in the travel section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. At least 30 places were featured from Apayao and Palanan to Dinagat and Siargao Islands and the disputed Spratly region.

Distributed by Milflores Publishing (tel. 721-6431), the book is available in Aeon Books, Popular Bookstore, Old Manila Megamall, Solidaridad, Books for Less, Christian Ventures, University of the Philippines Press Bookstore, Filipino Heritage Library, Trade Winds and, in January, the Cultural Center of the Philippines Museum Shop.

The book will be relaunched at 6 p.m., Jan. 15 at the new Art Plaza in Shangri-La EDSA Mall. Try to be there, so you will have the pleasure of meeting the author and be inspired as I was in reading about islands in our own country and feel that we are rich indeed.

Amadis is the son of the late Dr. Tristan Ma. Guerrero and the late Estrella San Agustin de Guerrero who used to write for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in the mid-80s when Recah Trinidad was the editor. He belongs to the *ilustrado* clan of the Guerreros of Ermita. He is the cousin of another poet/writer, Rafael Ma. Guerrero, and the nephew of Chitang Guerrero Nakpil.

Benedictine nuns of Assisi

I visited recently the monastery of the Benedictine nuns of Assisi in barrio San Jose, Malaybalay, Bukidnon. The convent, which is only partially built, sits on a three-hectare property donated by the Monastery of the Transfiguration. The nuns had their chapel blessed recently with Fr. Prior Savio Siccuan, OSB, presiding and Fr. Columbano as sacristan mayor.

Mother Gaude, the order's superior, wrote us about the order:

"The Mary Mother of the Church Monastery was founded in August 1995. The conventual chapter of the Monastero di San Giuseppe in Assisi, Italy, a community of cloistered Benedictine Nuns, approved the organization of a Philippine foundation.

Like many monasteries in Europe, the Assisi community of San Giuseppe had been without vocations for some time. But for the last 10 years, it has been blessed with vocations mainly Filipino women. At the moment, it has already seven perpetually professed Filipino sisters and three in simple vows.

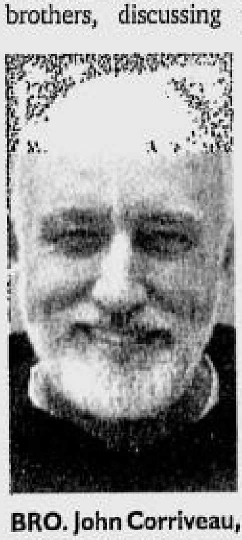
Because of these blessings, the community set up a Philippine foundation as an act of thanksgiving and generosity and to give the nuns a wider and more universal vision of the church.

The Most Rev. Honesto CH. Pacana, S.J., Bishop of Malaybalay, welcomed the nuns to his diocese on Nov. 13, 1995 when the small community, with their abbess, Mother Giacinta Soverino, OSB, met with him. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Jan. 14, 1996 with Bishop Pacana himself presiding over the liturgical ceremonies.

Those who wish to help can write to Rev. Mother Gaudencia, OSB, at Mary Mother of the Church Monastery, San Jose, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Capuchin official arrives

Bro. John Corriveau, OFMCap, minister general of the Capuchin Order, arrived Dec. 10 for a pastoral-fraternal visit to brothers of the Capuchin Order here. The pastoral visitation aimed to contribute to the vivacity and renewal of the Capuchin religious life among brothers and to foster unity within the order. In his visitation, Bro. John had "fraternal dialogues, whether individually or communally, with the brothers, discussing with them everything which pertains, supports and foster Franciscan Capuchin life."



BRO. John Corriveau, OFMCap, minister general of the Capuchin Order

Bro. John met with brothers of the Philippine Province headed by Bro. Troadio de los Santos, OFMCap. The meetings occurred in different places. On Dec. 11, he was at the Capuchin Retreat Center (CRC) in Lipa City and met the guardians (local superiors) and *economos* (local treasurers) and formators. At the CRC in Tagaytay City Dec. 12, he was with the Capuchin parish priest, educators and the provincial definitory. A general audience with all the brothers was held Dec. 12 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Quezon City. On Dec. 14, he flew to Davao City to meet Capuchin brothers there and on Dec. 15 he went to General Santos City to meet with the fraternity at Baluan.

Bro. John was accompanied in this pastoral visit by Bro. Joseph Nacua, OFMCap., one of the general definitors of the Capuchin Order.

Servants of Mary

When Alvin Cabacang read about the Order of the Servants of Mary in my column many years ago, he was inspired to inquire about the order and decided to enter it. At 10 a.m. yesterday, Fra. Alvin pronounced his solemn profession with four other friars. They were Fra. Jesus Ma. Diaz, Fra. Roger Cabillo, Fra. Ryan Lorenzo and Fra. Michel Angelo Ma. Baco. Presider was Fr. Mario Ma. Azzario, OSM.

Vamos a Belen!

Ramon Obusan's folkloric group will have a concert, "Vamos a Belen," at 8 p.m. today at the CCP Main Theater. Pastores will participate. Tickets available at the box office.

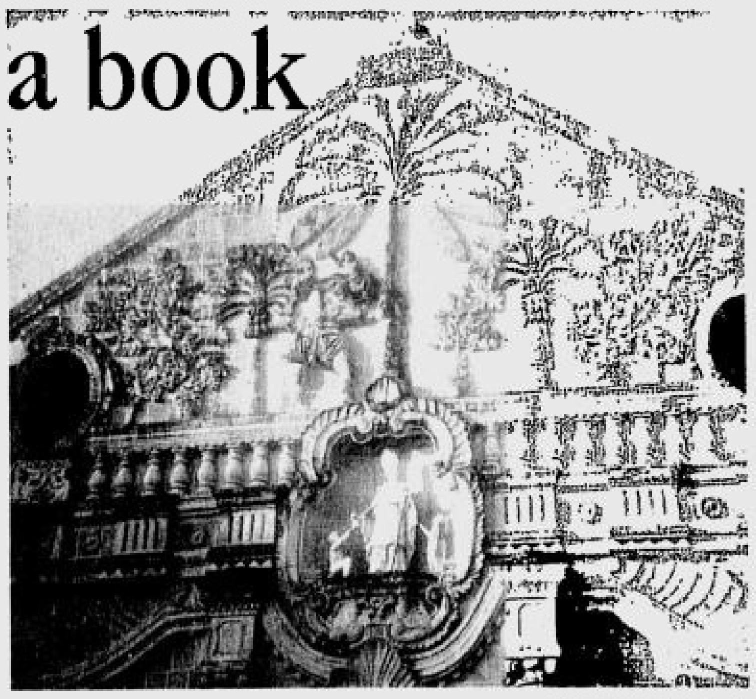
Good health to you!

Rosamy Ruth Lim insists that we should also feed our physical bodies while praying for good health. Many people are now giving more attention to their health. She suggests taking Reliv. For more information, text 09176219854.

White daisies for New Year

All these years, we have suggested putting white daisies in vases and placing them around the house before the clock rings 12 midnight to usher in a new year. The gold core of the flower symbolizes prosperity. Most of all, go to confession before the New Year and begin 2004 right. If you are overwhelmed by the stress in the world, go to an adoration chapel and talk to Jesus. It will make you feel better and lighter.

Happy New Year to you all!



MIAG-AO Church, Iloilo

Tita Joni's Christmas Chicken Pastel

INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE FILLING:

	ANCHOR Butter (salted)
1 cup	Boneless chicken breast
1 kilo	Vienna sausage
1 small can	Chorizo de bilbao
1 pc.	Button mushrooms
1 small can	Green olives, chopped
3/4 cup	Onions, chopped
1 cup	Potatoes, cut into wedges
3 medium-sized pcs.	Carrot, cut into wedges
1 pc.	Sweet peas
1/2 cup	All-purpose flour
2 tbsps.	Chicken broth
2 cups	Cheddar cheese, grated
1/4 cup	White wine (optional)
1 tbsp.	
Salt & pepper to taste	

FOR THE CRUST:

	ANCHOR Butter (salted)
1 cup	All- purpose flour, sifted
1/2 cup	Salt
1 tsp.	Chilled water
5 tbsps.	

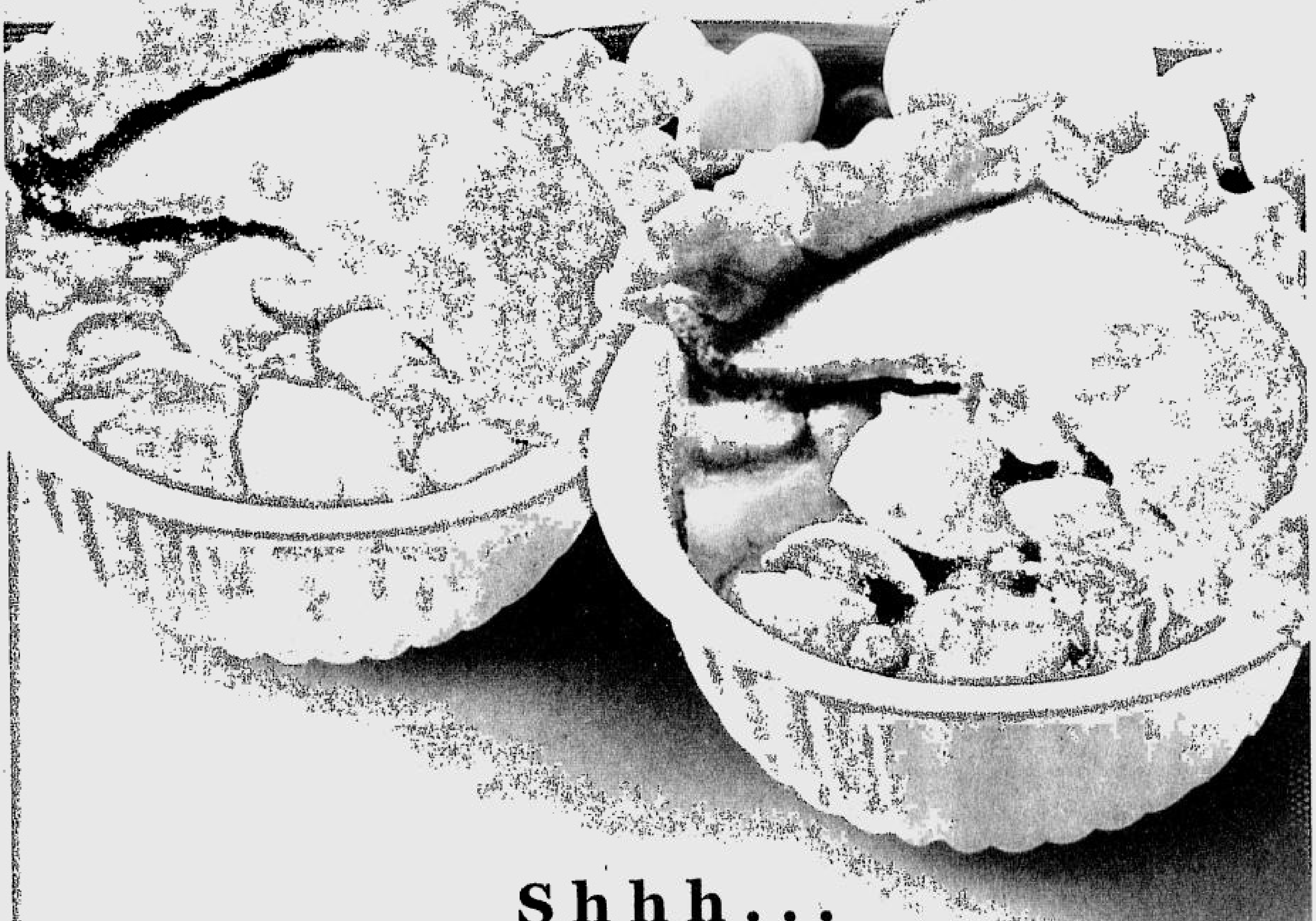
PROCEDURE:

FOR THE FILLING:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Chop chicken into 1"x 1" chunks. Season with salt & pepper then brown slightly in skillet with hot butter. Set aside.
3. Add more butter to the pan and saute onions until soft. Then add mushrooms, chicken and sliced chorizo de bilbao. Cook for 3 minutes.
4. Pour chicken broth and wine. Simmer until chicken is almost done.
5. Then add in the carrot, potatoes, vienna sausage and cook for a few minutes. Simmer, then mix in the cheese, olives and peas.
6. Add in the flour to thicken the sauce.
7. Pour the pastel in a pyrex dish, cover with the crust, brush with beaten egg yolk, and bake for 25 minutes until golden brown.

FOR THE CRUST:

1. Cut the salted Anchor Butter into small squares.
2. Put the butter squares in a bowl and using two forks, mix with the sifted flour until they form pea-sized mounds. Add salt.
3. Slowly add the chilled water into the mixture, 1 tbsp. at a time while continuously mixing with your hands until a ball of dough is formed.
4. Roll the dough into a flat circle and place on top of the pastel in a pyrex dish. Trim off the excess dough around the edge.
5. Pierce holes on the dough with a fork before baking to release air. Serve and enjoy!



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Myrna Segismundo cooks up a New Year's Eve feast /D1

December adventures and misadventures

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

For the love of chocolates, I was punctual for a change

DECEMBER is the month with the most social events, from weddings to Christmas parties, movie premieres, charity shows and product launches, not to mention birthday parties and family reunions. I have been practically living in Emphasis Salon and have become a permanent fixture at **Rajo Laurel's** shop in order for my signature outrageous fashion.

With my social calendar burning, I did a very rare act this month of actually attending an event on time, all in an effort just to make it to the others that same evening. The opening of the most hip chocolate shop, Max Brenner, was at Greenbelt 3 and the invitation said 5:30 p.m. Now who really goes to these events on time, earlier than the owners and the main guy, **Max Brenner** himself?

As I entered after the usual paparazzi waves and please-mind-me-I-am-here-already poses, I spotted **Marge Enriquez** already dipping giant strawberries into a bowl of dark chocolate sauce. She was so shocked to see me, *en punto* that is, that she wondered if this event was actually a luncheon and I had just arrived.

As a certified, hard-core chocaholic (a vegetarian's downfall), I just had to go to the opening straight from my belly-dancing class and indulge. The dress code was bald or bold, so I did come with my belly exposed. If I stayed any longer, I would actually see my belly expand, so I headed out before that gross scenario happened.

Wrong house

At another hysterically crowded December evening, I entered the wrong house for the La Mer event at the Tantoco residence. There was an unrelated party three doors away and I failed to check the house address. I trotted in with my 30-yard-long, ruffled organza Rajo ball gown and just tried to blend in. It must have been the owner of the house who approached me and straightened things out. The other guests must have thought I was the entertainment. Luckily, the Tantocos have really nice neighbors!

When I finally got into the real La Mer party, beautifully decorated down to huge aquarium and grand piano, I knew that I was in the right place. Since the house was so grand, I decided to pose with the house staff who apparently check out my column, too. Maybe I should run for office!

Part of the crowd

Another annual December event is the Consular Corps Ball. On the Consular Corps' 28th anniversary, my dinner date/husband **Dennis** and I were invited to attend by a really long-time friend from USAID, **Jerry Bisson**.

For the first time, my blond wig did not get heads turning to my direction. As I panned through the Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom, I noticed a sea of blonds and light brunettes. I had never seen so many expats in one gathering. I thought they had all relocated to Shanghai.

I guess I did come in the right costume as one of the guests even asked if I was from the US. I noticed a lot of handsome men that evening, so a note to all the single women out there—try to get invited to the next Consular Corps Ball. But if that's too far away, another resource place would be the Pen lobby. It is a place where you will surely bump into anyone and everyone.

First Lady?

From the Bantay Bata Christmas Charity show, I chatted with Mother **Lily Monteverde** and **Susan Roces**, who I had met weeks ago when we were both guests of honor at a gallery show. Of course, I initially mistook her for **Helen Gamboa** and asked her if she was related to **Sharon Cuneta**. Well, for sure I will never mistake her again for anyone. But just on looks, she is more than elegant enough to be the next First Lady.

I saw her last Sunday at the movie premiere of "Mano Po 2." This all-star cast film might be this

DECEMBER/ F4

MAJOR sponsors at Judith's wedding: President Macapagal-Arroyo and Peping Cojuangco

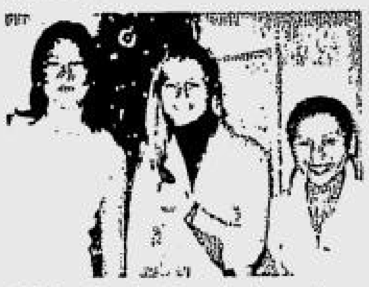
IRENE Martel Francisco, Dr. Boya Mohindar, Joy Wassmer and Anton Huang

CELINE Lopez, Tina Ocampo and Melissa Lopez

BIRTHDAY boy Anton San Diego does a duet with Martin Nievera at the Swatch Christmas party

KIT Zobel, Kathy Lichauco and Mary Anne Po

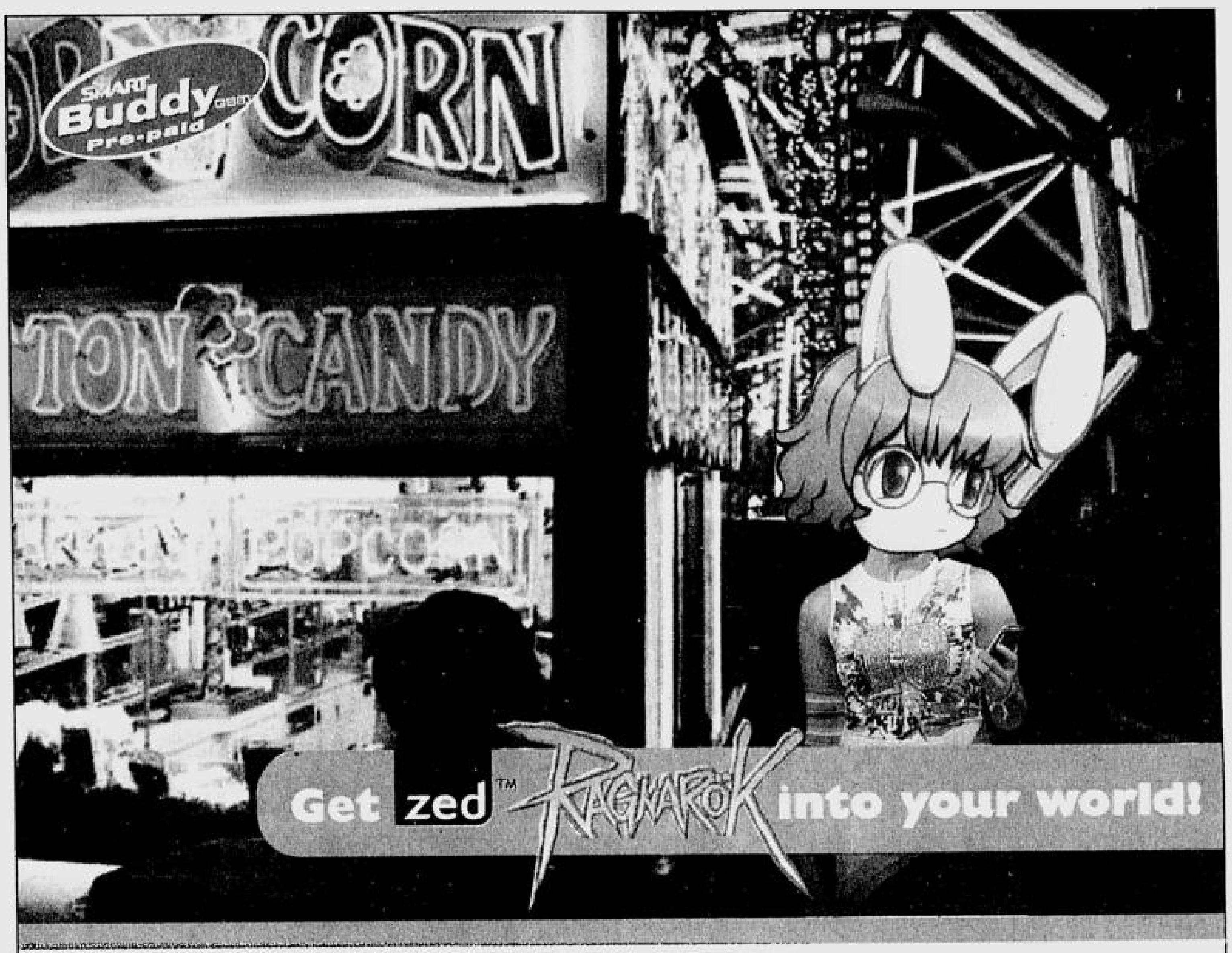
BALL guests, Reni and Mark Singer with a blonde Sea Princess



AT the Cartier launch, brand manager Luzanne Manlapit, PR manager Carmen Gomez-Menor and Ginggay Joven

PEPATO GUESTS. Anna Bayle, Doji Dingcong and Miguel Pastor

ALL smiles at Anton's dinner hosted by Ben Chan



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TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

Tales from an island sanctuary

LIGHTHOUSE and floating picnic hut on Looc Bay

AT THE AGLICAY resort (lifeguard Julius in the shade at left)

Text and photos
by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

A FRIEND and former office mate, Joel Sarmenta, has this farm on Tablas Island in Romblon *a la* Karen Blixen/Isak Dinesen (played by Meryl Streep in the film "Out of Africa"). And Joel has been threatening to write his own memoir, titled "Out of Tablas."

Tablas is one of three big islands that comprise Romblon, which is between Mindoro and the Bicol mainland. Romblon is one of our most attractive provinces, known for its superb natural harbors, beaches and coves, numerous islets, thriving marine life, mangroves, and marble craft. Its rice cakes *(suman)* are a bestseller (you have to order in advance because the day's supply runs out by 11 a.m.).

We went to Tablas on a long-standing invitation from Joel. Another friend, Tony Protacio, a physician who felt the need to see greenery in the countryside, joined us.

But setting off was not without a hitch.

Joel bought the tickets in advance. The interisland ship MV Virgin Mary was scheduled to leave Pier 8 at the Manila North Harbor that Monday at 5 p.m. for Odiongan. The ship, however, was unceremoniously dry-docked and replaced by the MV Blessed Mother at the last minute.

Joel relayed the news by text message to our hosts, his cousins Anthony and Tessa Tirol, in Looc, and was able to validate our tickets. Other passengers were not as lucky.

The Blessed Mother was supposed to leave at 3 p.m. but did not lift anchor until after an hour later. Two women passengers, with baggage and all, arrived just then, unaware that the schedule—and the ship—had been changed.

Alas, they could no longer be accommodated because the gangplank had been raised. (What an inconvenience that must have been. In another country, the maritime company would have been sued.)

As for the medium-size MV Blessed Mother, I was pleasantly surprised to see that most of the signs and instructions were in Spanish. But these will be replaced next year, according to service crewman Michael Isidro.

> To think that 5 years ago, this prime tourist drawer was dying

We repaired to the first-class dining hall, Café Neptuno, where the food, including the bar chow, turned out to be good. Another pleasant surprise. "Johnny English" starring Rowan Atkinson was being shown on the DVD screen.

The ship docked at Tablas' Odiongan port the following day at 5:30 a.m., as the sun rose. Dr. Leila Medina Arboleda, mayor of Looc, sent a vehicle to collect us, driven by Roger, a neighbor of hers. Later, License Inspector Benjie Gadacho took over the driving chores.

Looc is the next town after Odiongan. Under Mayor Arboleda, it has become a progressive municipality with a clean public market and clean streets. The plaza has an ingenious island map of stone, with a pond, designed by gentleman farmer Napoleon Tirol, and shaped like Tablas.

The names of the island's towns are inscribed on the rock formations and are in geographically accurate positions.

At night the town is quiet, with only a few lights on. The streets are dark, but not to worry; there are no thieves here, we are told. The places to stay include the Hotel Napoleon and Marduke Hotel.

Among the beach resorts in Looc are the Roda, Gishelle and Villa M., a well-maintained hilltop place. All are along the 48-hectare Looc Bay. At low tide the waters recede considerably, so swimming is recommended during high tide.

The town's main eco-tourist attraction is the Looc Bay, which faces the Tablas Strait. Five years ago the bay was dying—a result of overfishing and the use of illegal methods of catching fish. A private organization, Embrace Inc., with support from the municipal government, started the arduous process of rehabilitation.

The area is now a fish sanctuary—the kind where many would want to retire. A Bantay Dagat Task Force has been formed, with Alan Galindez as team leader. Dynamite fishing was curbed, various kinds of fish multiplied along the corals, and marine life was restored. Sparrows, crows and white herons now fly over the bay.

Today, the bay has giant clams, lapu-lapu, talakitok and tuna, squid, sea shells, lobsters and crabs, according to Jessie Jomadiao, formerly with Embrace and now municipal agricultural officer and tourism officer of Looc.

To kick off the itinerary, the mayor ordered a tour of the bay, with Jomadiao and the Bantay Dagat volunteers serving as tour guides.

The bay has a fish cage where tens of thousands of *danggit* (locally known as *burawis*) are grown; a four-hectare Buenavista Marine Reserve and Sanctuary; and a Looc Bay Marine Refuge and Sanctuary known as Parola.

The distinctive features of the marine refuge are a lighthouse that dates back to Spanish times and, nearby, a *balsa*, a raft-picnic hut that can accommodate two large families. This is a popular excursion area for the locals, especially during summer.

Here we had a delicious lunch prepared by Sangguniang Bayan secretary Renato Barredo.

The waters around the *balsa* are clear and shallow, ideal for swimming and snorkeling. Even children can swim here provided they have a life jacket, as did eight-year-old Vince Tirol, son of Anthony and Tessa.

Another eco-tourist attraction in Looc is the Lumbia Waterfalls, located one-and-a half kilometers from the town proper and accessible through a 15-minute uphill and downhill trek.

Outside of Looc, in the town of Alcantara, is the secluded Aglicay Beach Resort (0919-634-6708). It is a cozy getaway set amid low-lying hills, coconut-palm trees that jut gracefully from the shore and, best of all, a white-sand beach with distinctive rock formations resembling a submarine rising from the depths.

The owners, who lived and worked for many years in the United States, are Guillermo Martinez, a retired surgeon, and his wife Glenda, a chemist. They are ballroom dancing aficionados, very knowledgeable about the origins of Latino music, and will even demonstrate the dance steps to appropriate music in the background.

"There are various forms of tango," Martinez noted at one point. "Once you learn one, you can go on to the next."

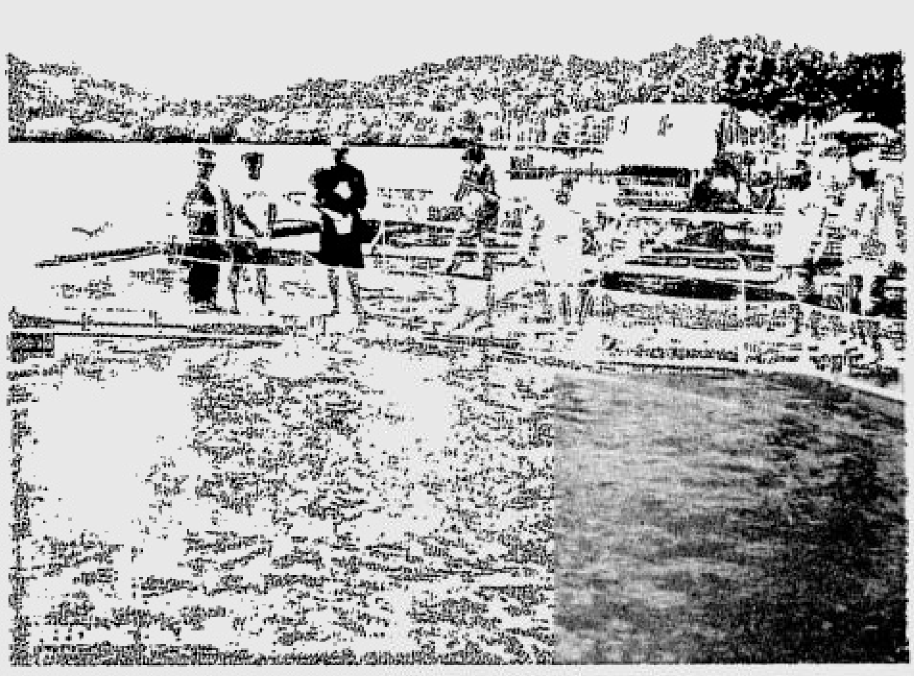
Martinez, who has a keen sense of humor, will regale you with anecdotes about his experiences in the United States—including the time he found himself in a nudist camp, refused to take off his clothes, and pretended he was the bartender!

The resort's four-legged lifeguard is Julius, a huge German Shepherd who has the propensity to suddenly materialize behind you, breeze by, and hit you with his big tail.

Julius' idea of fun is pulling the rope—in this case, his leash—with you at the other end. You usually turn out the loser.

Evenings are cool at Aglicay. The modern accommodations are fan-cooled, and you don't really need an air-conditioner. You are lulled to sleep by the whirring of the crickets, the chirping of the birds, and the sonorous sound of the gecko. Perfect.

The MBRS Lines (North Harbor, Pier 8) has interisland ships that regularly ply the Manila-Odiongan route. The trip takes about 12-14 hours. On the way back, travelers have the option of taking another interisland vessel (Montenegro Lines) to Batangas City, and then a bus or van to Metro Manila.



TRAVELBRIEFS

Merriment in Macau

FUN-FILLED activities await merrymakers until Jan. 4 at the Macau Tower's "Moët Hennessy High-Spirited Christmas Journey."

These include sampling exquisite food and wine at the European Christmas Village; family fun at Kidsmas Land; surprises on Skywalk X; an exhibition of national treasures from the Qing Dynasty, which were lost and scattered outside China for over 140 years; a unique New Year countdown; and the Hong Kong-Macau Cross-Border Christmas Lucky Draw.

The New Year festivities promise to be extra special with a colorful fireworks display and other surprises for guests visiting the Piazza in front of the Macau Tower.

For details, visit the Macau Tower website at www.macautower.com.mo or contact your travel agent or the Macau Government Tourism Office at 830-2005/2013.

Kalakbay awardee

THE OAKWOOD Premier Ayala Center was recently conferred a Kalakbay Award, the highest honor given by the Department of Tourism to entities that have "distinguished themselves, beyond so many others, in their respective fields of tourism."

Named special accommodation facility of the year at the 11th Kalakbay Awards, Oakwood was one of two Metro Manila tourism establishments cited by the DOT. The other was Makati Shangri-La Manila.

Oakwood offers hotel services but is officially categorized as a special accommodation because its units are almost twice the size of the regular hotel room, and each one comes with a full kitchen, seating area, entertainment center and laundry facilities.

It was cited as paving the way for a new category of travel accommodations with the "luxurious service of a five-star hotel" and the advantages and independence offered by a complete residence.

With one-, two- and three-bedroom suites offering accommodations for four up to eight persons, Oakwood accepts guests for a night or as long as several years.

Up to Jan. 4, one- up to three-bedroom suites are being offered at about 70 percent off published rates. A stay at the suites comes with complimentary buffet breakfast for two up to six persons.

Official agency

THE CEBU Business Hotel and Iloilo Grand Hotel recently designated Wing Star Travel and Tours as their Manila sales and reservation office.

The travel agency, located at 50-E Timog Avenue, Quezon City, with phone numbers 374-5441 to 43, is also the ticketing agent of Philippine Airlines and Negros Navigation.

Cebu Business Hotel's function rooms are fully equipped with audiovisual facilities and ideal for business meetings and other corporate events. The grand ballroom can accommodate up to 400 persons.

Other hotel services include a commercial area, a business center, spacious and guarded basement parking, and safety deposit area. The 114 rooms are luxuriously furnished, with a view of the city's skyline.

Street dance winner

NEGROS Oriental's 100-strong contingent won the P1-million grand prize for its performance of the "Yag-yag Festival" in the recent street dance competition at the Rizal Park in Manila, besting 14 other dance troupes from Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

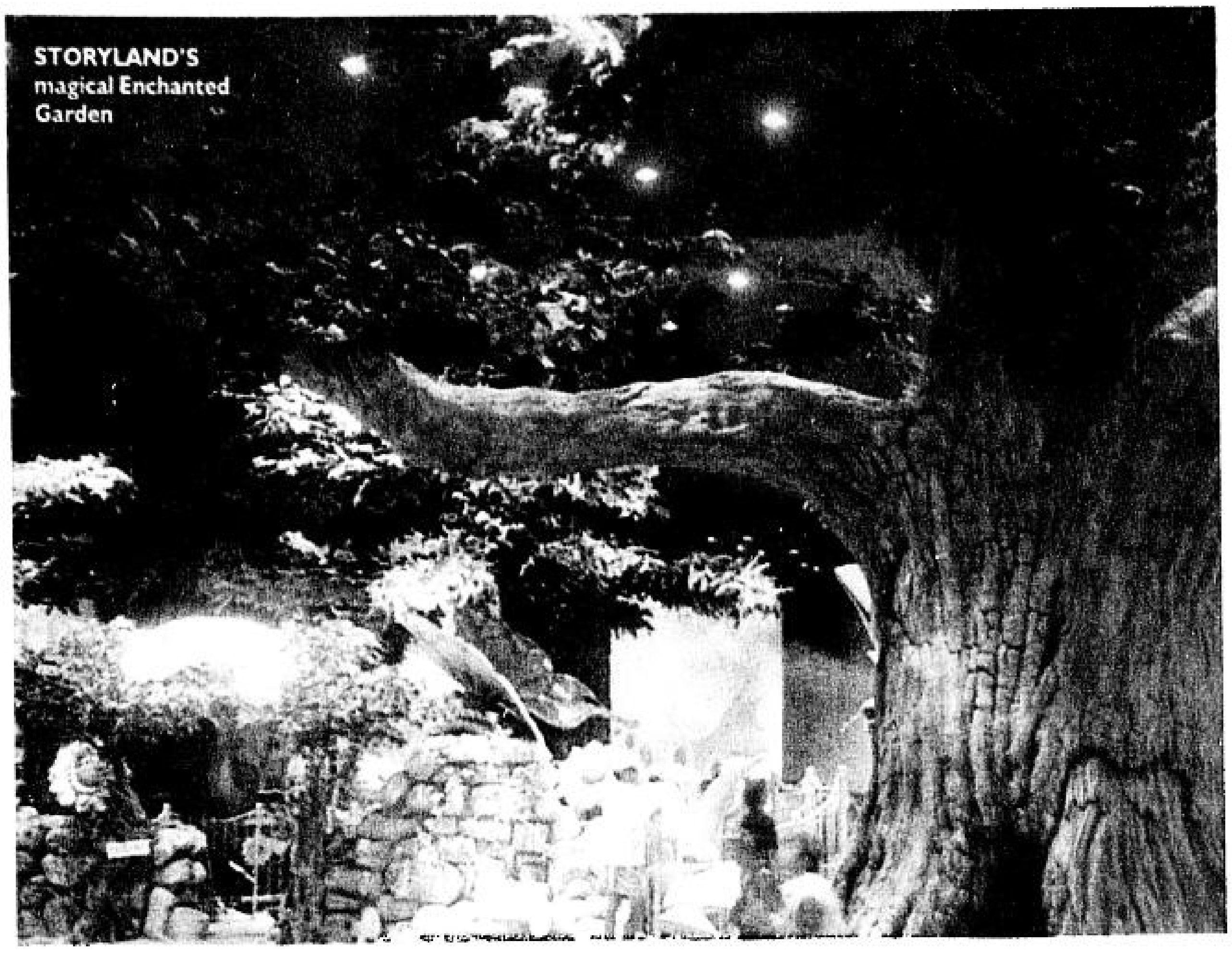
Leyte's "Los Pintados Festival" came in second, winning P500,000, and North Cotabato's "Kadagayaan Festival," third, with P250,000.

The dance competition capped the Department of Tourism's "Visit Philippines 2003" campaign.

The other culminating events of the campaign include "WOW Pagkaing Pilipino," "WOW Inuming Pinoy," "WOW Himig Pilipino" and "WOW Kasuotang Pilipino," all in the "walled city" of Intramuros.

"WOW Himig Pilipino" also brought together 15 of the country's best choral groups, with Iloilo City's University of San Agustin Troubadours bagging the competition's top plum along with a P200,000 cash prize.

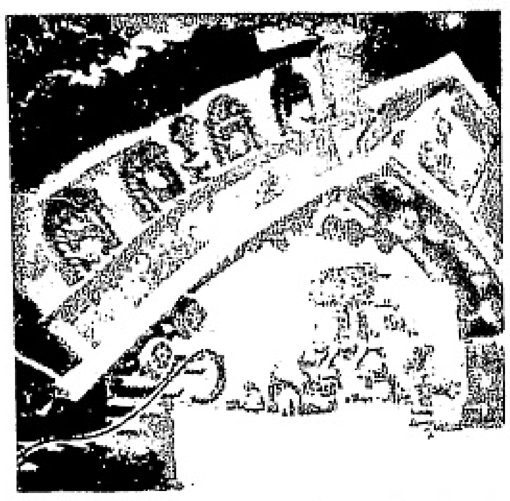
Second- and third-placers Saint Louis University of Baguio and Capitol Glee Club of Cagayan de Oro got P150,000 and P100,000, respectively.



STORYLAND'S magical Enchanted Garden

STORYLAND'S Ellie, the Elephant, Lionel, the Lion King and Sgt. March (top right). Kids can celebrate their birthday with exciting parties at Storyland(below)

Fun center receives int'l award



ONE of the themed attractions at Storyland's Travel Town

THE INTERNATIONAL Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) has named SM Storyland one of the Top Family Entertainment Centers of the World for 2003.

The award recognizes the best family entertainment center operations in the industry.

Storyland, which is located in SM Southmall and SM City Fairview, was cited together with nine other parks in the United States, Mexico, the Middle East, and Asia.

They were honored at the recent IAAPA Orlando Annual Convention and Trade Show in Orlando, Florida, United States.

The other award recipients were Adventure . Landing Raleigh, Adventure Landing Jacksonville, The Factory, the Only Game in Town, and Sam's Fun City in the United States, Recorcholis Lerma and La Ciudad de Niños of Mexico, Toon City of Saudi Arabia, and Kangwon Land of Korea.

IAAPA president J. Clark Robinson said winners of the award represented the leadership of the industry segment.

Entries in the Top Family Entertainment Centers of the World Award were judged on the basis of operational efficiency, safety standards, décor and ambiance, marketing savvy, and managerial performance.

Storyland is located at the upper ground level of SM Southmall and the third level of SM City Fairview.

Give freedom and a bit of cyberspace

IF YOU'RE still agonizing over what to give your fave yuppie or cyberjunkie until now, probably the best present is a huge mailbox to stuff all th e-mail he/she gets or online storage space for his/her personal files or web page.

You may think hotmail.com and yahoo.com are good enough and they're also free! But can they handle large file attachments like, say, an MP3 file or megabyte-size photo, humongous doc or xls or ppt files? No.

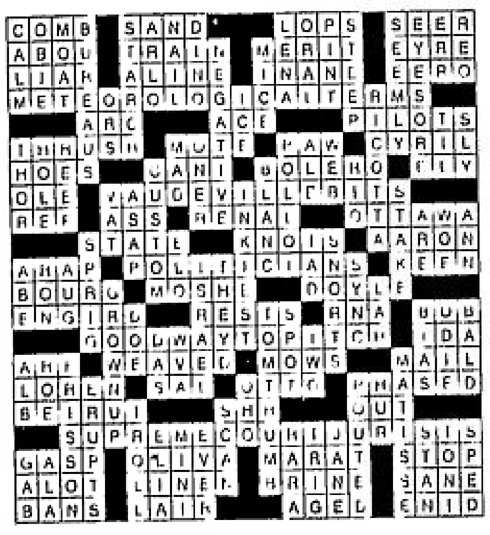
At Showcase.ph and Pinay.ph, users get a 50-MB mailbox that won't choke up as easily as hotmail's or yahoo's free but skimpy services. Or they can opt for 50-MB online storage space to post their web pages or personal files—for "bringing home" work files for crunching away from school or the office.

At only P500 for one year prepaid for either the mailbox or the web space, this is unbeatable value. Perfect for academic group work or mobile professionals who shuttle from one location to another, this beats having to fiddle with floppy or CD discs or even a laptop, just download-crunch-upload (or vice-versa) anytime and anywhere there's Internet access.

You have until the Feast of the Epiphany to give your favorite techie a gift that will truly count.

Visit http://www.showcase.ph or http://www.pinay.ph, for freedom, power and cyberspace productivity.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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PRETTY ladies at the Pen. Doris Ho and Susan Roces

HOT U couples, Victoria London and Joel Tantoco

NEW bride, Judith Zapanta with best friend Anton Barretto

FIRST FAMILY. Ate Glow with real first daughter Luli Arroyo

BELLY classmate Mary Anne Lumen and cool husband Francis

USAID handsome Jerry Bisson with chic wife Anna at the Consular ball

"MANO PO" queen Mother Lily Monteverde with Monique Villonco

December adventures and misadventures

From page F1

year's local blockbuster together with the final installment of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. All these activities in reel and real life are what make this month so exciting.

Since there are so many varied events, dressing can be quite a chore. Launched this month, U Night of Rustan's had a mini-fashion show of its brilliant, young designer, **Dennis Lustico.** His collection is a perfect solution to the dressing dilemma for men and women who constantly party and ultimately live the urbane lifestyle.

U NIGHT designer Dennis Lustico and L'Oreal's Leica Carpo

The clothes are elegant and wearable. **Celine Lopez** and I are fans. At the Gucci event, someone asked her who made her cool, flirty dress and she said "Dennis!" The person asking had a funny reaction, "Dennis Valdes?"

Well, after Dennis Lustico's show, everyone will now know who the designer Dennis is.

Black gown

A mainstay of December soirees are weddings. I recently attended one where the gorgeous bride wore a beaded, black obi sash with a Latin-style neckline. I hadn't seen black on a wedding gown since the one on mine by haute couture designer **Inno Sotto.** The bride was **Judith Zapanta Berenger-Testa** and the East-meets-West gown was by Rajo Laurel. I think most weddings happen this month because the weather is so romantic.

GARY V and son Gabriel

MIA Borromeo and Rina Ortiz

VICKY Zubiri and Bea Zobel Jr.

From that lovely wedding, where the Manila Polo Club Ballroom was transformed by **Anton Barretto** into a magical tent covered with red roses, I had to attend a birthday party. I tease my friends born this month because they usually get only one gift for two occasions. And people only remember them once a year.

But Philippine Tatler editor in chief and dear friend **Anton San Diego** partied for several days to make sure his birthday was well-celebrated. An expert in hosting stylish parties and organizing events for the magazine, Anton prepared an evening of great food and fun together with hosts **Doris Magsaysay-Ho** and **Tina Ocampo.**

At the cocktails, a sexy couple in just a bikini and the tightest Speedo trunks traversed the living area and shocked some guests as they proceeded to the pool for a swim. From there, the guests were ushered to the dining hall for a sumptuous meal by the hippest Japanese restaurant, Kai.

Ate Glow

As dessert was being served, a commotion was caused by the arrival of the President. I thought she also was social-hopping from the Berenger-Testa wedding where she was one of the principle sponsors. It turned out it was **Ate Glow,** the comedian who does a great impression of President **Macapagal-Arroyo.** The jokes gave the crowd many a good laugh, even those that were at the expense of poor Anton. But being the trooper that he is, he just let the jokes go in one ear and right out the other.

What's an Anton party without the singing? Before we could even ask him for a song, he obliged us with three. It's a good thing his years of practice at the karaoke and overcoming his nervousness have now elevated him to showbiz level singing. Unfortunately, even if I have no fear of singing, I fear I have no voice at all.

The professionals also got to the mike and showed off their talents in spades. First was my fave high-energy performer, **Gary Valenciano.** Together with him for his third song after belting a beautiful but sad Tagalog Christmas song, was his son **Gabriel.** Both were dancing and jumping like they were brothers in an African tribal dance. The energy and vibe were so strong, Anton's guests were going wild.

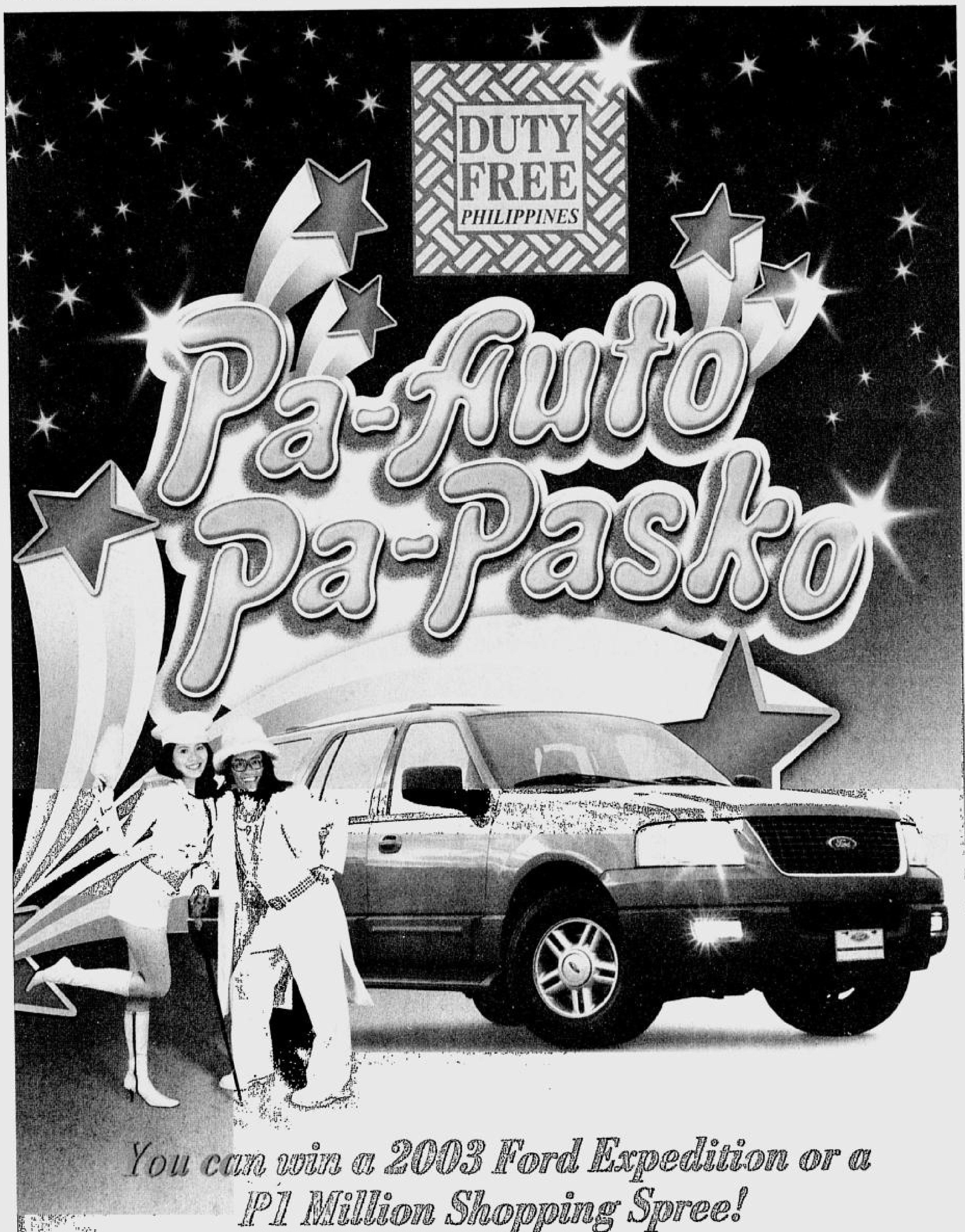
Before I passed the mike to **Pops Fernandez,** I told everyone that I would do a number. Just when the audience thought I was a pretty amazing singer, they noticed I was just lip-synching Pops, an act we perfected at one of **Keren Pascual's** famous star cruises. Of course, the real thing is always better, so they all cheered for Pops.

Birthday Party No. 2 for Anton was at Pepato, hosted by business wiz **Ben Chan.** It was a more intimate evening, with close friends like Hello Kitty Madame, **Virgie Ramos.** At the end of the dinner, we played a game describing Anton in one word. Mine was "sensitive" but one of the best descriptions was "effervescent," care of my good ol' Scrabble-playing husband.

In my efforts to complete the Misa de Gallo, I stayed awake for the first dawn mass but promptly got so tired that I missed the rest. I only got to sleep at lunch time that day, so I missed the Cartier event at Red restaurant at the Makati Shangri-La. I will just have to try again to complete the series next year.

We should really thank God for all the blessings He has showered on us. Just remember the true meaning of Christmas, even as you might be getting stressed from the busyness of the season.

E-mail at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph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1. All qualified travelers pursuant to the existing laws (Regular Filipino Traveler, OFW, Balikbayan and Foreign Individual Traveler) may avail of the "Pa-Auto, Pa-Pasko!" promo. Promo is valid both in **Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall** and **Duty Free Waterfront** in Lahug Cebu.
2. For every $100 worth of purchase, a customer will be entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.
3. Participating customers should present their DFP shopping card and receipts at the claim counter to get their computer printed raffle coupons, affix their signature and drop their entries at designated drop boxes located at Duty Free malls.
4. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she will get the bigger prize.
5. Only entries received on or before January 15, 2004 shall be qualified.
6. Raffle draw will be on January 30, 2004 at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall, at 3:00 p.m.
7. One Million Peso Shopping Spree is in the form of Gift Certificates.
8. Prizes are tax paid and not convertible to cash. All purchases are subject to Customs rules and regulations. Customs duties and taxes for electronic purchases of non-Balikbayans and non-OFWs will be paid in cash and shouldered by the winner.
9. Winners will be notified by registered mail and announced in leading national daily newspapers. Prizes may be claimed at Marketing Department, Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall upon presentation of valid IDs.
10. Employees of Duty Free Philippines, PC&V and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity shall not be allowed to join the promo.
11. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.

The best things in life are duty-free.

Under RA 9174, Balikbayans and OFWs arriving between Nov.15 and Jan.15 can shop within 30 days from date of arrival.

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The copy editor will be part of a team editing and writing news and product reports, and putting together the print, CD-ROM and on-line versions of a high-tech trade magazine.

You should be a degree holder, preferably in Journalism/English/Communications. You must have excellent spoken and written English language skills and solid Internet research skills. A basic understanding of print production and website content development, exposure to international trade, and 2 years editorial/writing experience in print media would be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

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Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor will be part of the editorial team and handling technical editorial operations and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communication, or English with at least 5 years of editorial experience in a supervisory capacity. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to detail. Exposure to international media content can be an advantage.

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Secretary

The successful candidate will provide secretarial services and administrative support to the editorial staff.

You should be a degree holder, preferably in Marketing, Business, Communications or related discipline. You must have excellent spoken and written English language skills and be proficient in Excel and Word. You must have strong organizational ability and able to meet tight deadlines. Ability to handle multiple priorities and work well in a multi-cultural setting is required. Secretarial experience can be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

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JANITORS/DISHWASHERS

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Malate
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- Graduate of any business course in a reputable university
- With 3-5 years related experience in a micro-scale level
- Adept in doing and facilitating training modules
- Willing to travel anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao areas
- Team player and with strong personal values

TRANSFORMATION ASSOCIATE (TA)

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Theology in a reputable university
- With 2-3 years related experience in Corporate or in Christian Church setting
- Has capacity to do training modules and facilitating it
- Willing to travel anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao areas
- Team player and with strong personal values

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ES)

- Female, single, not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of business or a 4-year secretarial course in a reputable university
- With at least 3 years secretarial experience
- Proficient in composing Correspondence, Minutes of the Meeting, Proposals and other related letters for local and international circulation
- Has the capacity to deal with the Board of Trustees and can organize meetings or conferences
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Team player and with strong personal values

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS (PA)

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Business or Social Science course in a reputable university
- Willing to do field work in the urban poor communities
- Physically fit and willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao
- Team player and with strong personal values

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATES (AA)

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Accountancy course, CPA is an advantage
- At least 2-3 years related experience
- Knowledgeable in doing and interpreting Financial Statements
- Proficient in Branch to branch/Head office accounting or vise versa
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao
- Team player and with strong personal values

DRIVER/UTILITY

- Male not more than 30 years of age
- At least College level
- With 5-8 years of driving experience
- Familiar in Metro Manila, Antipolo and Bulacan areas
- Team player and with strong personal values

AUDIT ASSOCIATES (AUA)

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Accountancy course, CPA is an advantage
- With at least 2-4 years of auditing experience
- Adept in branch and head office accounting
- Willing to travel anywhere in Luzon and Mindanao
- Team player and with strong personal values

Interested applicants may personally send their resumé and transcript of records to #12 San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, Tel. Nos. 291-1484 to 86
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- Experience in production operation, material and production planning, quality control, safety, sanitation, fire protection, and environmental protection is a must
- Technical knowledge and experience in ink manufacturing is preferred
- Exposure in formulating manufacturing policies, programs and standards, product costing/pricing, sourcing and maintenance of raw material stocks, analysis and evaluation of plant operations, its variances from standard/targets and institution of corrective measures is an advantage.

Accounting Analyst

- Accounting graduate
- With previous general accounting experience
- Graduate from reputable university

HRD Supervisor

- Psychology graduate preferably with Masteral degree
- At least 3-5 years experience as HRD Supervisor
- With experience in recruitment and training
- Knowledgeable in Labor Laws
- Computer Literate

UV Helper

- Experience in operating UV Machine
- College level

UV Coater/Sheeter Operator

- Experience in UV Coater and sheeter operation
- Team player
- College level

Assistant Printer

- Preferably 2 years experience sheet fed operation
- Fast learner
- College level

Guillotine Technician

- Experience in polar cutter operation
- Fast learner

Folding M/C Technician

- Engineering background
- Previous experience on operator of STAHL folding preferred
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Saddle Stitcher Technician

- Preferably engineering background
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Press Operator

- Male/Female
- Previous experience preferred
- College level preferred

Bindery

- Mechanical eng'g/EE/ECE graduates (not licensed)
- Male/Female
- Willing to work in industrial environment

Engineering Support

- Male/Female
- Mechanical/EE/ECE graduates

Pre-Press Technician

- Male/Female
- College level
- Previous experience preferred (but not necessary)
- Familiarity with MAC and PC and major S/W applications (Adobe, Corel, Macromedia)
- Background in print production preferred

DAD Technician

- Male
- College level
- Previous experience preferred (but not necessary)
- Familiarity with MAC and PC and major S/W applications (Adobe, Corel, Macromedia)
- Background in print production preferred.

Telephone Operator

- 21-28 years old
- College graduates from reputable school
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Knows how to deal with different kind of people

Warehouseman

- Male / college graduate
- At least 2 years experience in warehousing

Editorial Assistant

- With knowledge of computer lay-out/background of any computer program like photoshop/pagemaker etc.
- With communication skills
- Willing to work overtime

IT Manager

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Information Technologies or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years work experience as systems administrator
- Hands-on experience in internet/networking environments, client-server applications
- Must have experience in the following:
    - Hardware – includes installation and maintenance and servers for accounting and production systems and PC/telephone installation and maintenance.
    - Print Town Business Software – includes project to complete Accounting, MIMS and Production software development needs, anti-virus systems and licenses maintenance.
- Experience in the following would be an added factor but not necessary:
    - LAN per site – includes VOIP, Email, Web connections, intra-office connectivity, corporate website/web page development
    - WAN/Pre-Press – includes connections between printing locations and office sites
    - IPI Software – TERA software and maintenance, circulation and advertising software.

Technical Support Analyst

- Male/BS Chemical/ Industrial Engineering graduate
- Licensed graduates from reputable school
- Work experience in a manufacturing set up is preferred
- Willing to travel from time to time to Davao and Cebu plants
- Computer proficient in office applications (Word, Power Point, Excel)
- Should be able to relate and interact with other employees in the line

Applicants for all positions must be willing to be assigned in Mamplasan, Laguna (shuttle service available). Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or E-mail: aoasan@fep.ph

The Century Park Hotel

is inviting qualified applicants for the position of

Japanese Executive Chef

- Seven (7) years experience at least three (3) years in similar position in Japanese cuisine
- Cost oriented
- Ability to handle personnel is a must
- With strong leadership
- Personable and neat
- Must be very creative and quality minded
- Not more than 35 years old
- Must have finished at least two (2) years of college education
- Knowledge in Japanese language
- Flexible
- Ability to train and develop subordinate
- Expert in a la carte cuisine

Banquet Coordinator

For the Food and Beverage (Banquet Section)

- Female, not more than 34 years old
- College graduate preferably in Marketing, Business Management or Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least four (4) years related work experience
- Personable, charming and aggressive
- Written and verbal facility is a must
- Personable and aggressive with good salesmanship
- Service-oriented, keen attention to fine details
- Knowledge of the hotel's facilities, layout and service standards
- Knowledge of food and beverage, proper service techniques, etiquette of entertaining small and large groups and function room decoration ability is a must

Guest Service Agent

Rooms Division (Front Office)

- Male, not more than 25 years old
- At least 5'8" tall
- College graduate preferably Bachelor of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Proficiency in oral and written English communication is a must
- Charming, neat and personable
- Ability to use Fidelio system is an advantage
- Ability to relate with different people

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumés with a recent 2 x 2 colored photo and relevant certificates at:

599 P. Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila
or P. O. Box 117, CPO, Manila

PALMS
COUNTRY CLUB

The Palms Country Club, a first class private membership club in Alabang, Filinvest Corporate City, which opened in August 2002, is looking for:

SALES MANAGER for MEMBERSHIP SALES

Reporting directly to the Membership Head, the ideal candidate must have had at least two (2) years sales experience preferably in the fields of Hotel, Private Membership Clubs or any Real Estate Development industry. A mature self-driven, people person with exceptional communication and organizational skills.

Qualified candidates may send an application letter, resumé with passport size ID picture, transcript of records, certificate of employment and contact tel. no. to:

THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
1410 LAGUNA HEIGHTS,
FILINVEST CORPORATE CITY
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA
e-mail address: hrd@the palmsclub.com

COCOLIFE

A UCPB GROUP COMPANY

A member of the UCPB Group of companies, one of the largest conglomerates in the country today, we comprise the Group's insurance arm and offer a complete range of insurance and protection services. Belonging to the top ten companies in the insurance industry, we boast of an expanding network of Area Offices and over 80 fully computerized branches nationwide.

We are looking for dynamic, career-oriented, and quality-driven individuals who want to join our team as:

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ BS Nursing, Physical Therapy, Medical
- ✓ Technology graduate;
- ✓ Good Communication Skills;
- ✓ Customer service oriented;
- ✓ Pleasing personality;
- ✓ Computer literate

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ Graduate of any Business Course;
- ✓ Good Communication Skills;
- ✓ Customer Service Oriented;
- ✓ Pleasing Personality;
- ✓ Computer Literate.

ACTUARIAL ANALYST / TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ BS Mathematics, Statistics, Applied Math
- ✓ graduate; (UP, UST, De la Salle);
- ✓ Good Communication Skills,
- ✓ Customer service oriented,
- ✓ Pleasing personality;
- ✓ Computer literate

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package that includes an annual pay of as much as 16 months, rice subsidy, financial, housing and car loans at low interest rates, medical and HMO benefits, retirement benefit of as much as two months' gross salary for every year of service, and other special performance incentives.

Applicants may submit or mail their Comprehensive Resume, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to:

Cathy B. Solano
3F Cocolife Bldg.
6774 Ayala Ave., Makati
Tel. no. 8419530

Or e-mail to:
cathy_solano@cocolife.com

Previous applicants need not to apply.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

GARMENT OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Not more than 45 years old
- To manage & operate a 2,000 sq.m. plant located at Sta. Maria, Bulacan
- At least 3 yrs managerial experience in related field.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- Single 21-27 yrs old
- Should be able to handle time / motion study, purchasing, material consumption etc.

SEWING SUPERVISOR

- With at least 1 year work experience as a sewing supervisor
- Should be able to supervise sewing techniques & distribution.

Send resumé with picture at: EMAIL ADDRESS:
ewearco@hotmail.com
Fax: 299-6041

NOUVEAU MARKETING INC.

SALES EXECUTIVE – m/f; 22 yrs. up; Business, Marketing, Engineering or Architectural graduate; to do field work Marketing Architectural Products; Basic + Transpo. Allowance + Commission.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/MEASURER – m; 22 yrs. up, Civil eng'g. grad., to do field and office work such as final measurements of confirmed accounts and detail drawings of architectural/interior design proposals; assist tech. head in inventory and other production functions; do collections.

Submit personally resumé, transcript of records, NBI clearance to # 189-M Katipunan Ave., Q.C. and call for a scheduled interview @ 4397394 / 4395018 (with complete requirements only).

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

FINANCIAL / AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications

- Male/Female, not more than 35 yrs old
- Accounting graduate preferably CPA w/ related job experience in internal or external audit, accounting methods and systems analysis
- To assist in preparing budgeting, year-end reports
- Highly resourceful, with strong analytical and a high degree of objectivity
- Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy with good moral character
- Ability to work with minimum supervision
- Excellent verbal/written communications
- Computer literate

Please send your letter of application and comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
8 / F Globe Telecom Plaza II
Pioneer Highlands,
Pioneer corner Madison Streets
1552 Mandaluyong City

CYBERSOURCE, INC.

WEB DESIGNERS/WEBMASTER

- 1-2 years experience in Web/Graphic Design
- Fine Arts/Visual Communicator and/or its equivalent Graduate
- Proficiency in Design tools such as Photoshop 7, Corel Draw, Macromedia Freehand 9, Macromedia Flash 5/MX, Illustrator, Fireworks
- Knowledge in Dreamweaver, HTML, Java Script
- Must submit Work Samples/portfolios

WEB DEVELOPERS/PROGRAMMER

- At least 6 months – 1 year experience in Web Administration/ Systems Applications
- Proficiency in any five of the following: Dreamweaver, HTML, DHTML, Javascript, CSS, PHP, CGI, MySQL, ACCESS, ASP, ASP.net and Coldfusion a plus.
- Knowledge in basic design tools such as Photoshop 7, Corel Draw, Macromedia Flash 5/MX, Swift 3D is a plus

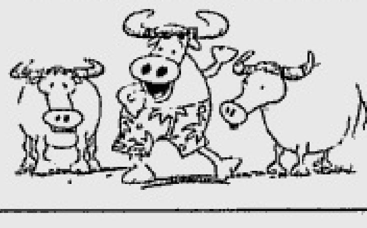
CARTOONIST

- At least 1-2 years experience in Cartoon Drawings and Animations
- Fine Arts/Visual Communicator and/or it's equivalent Graduate
- Proficiency in design tools such as Photoshop 7, Corel Draw, Macromedia Freehand 9, Macromedia Flash 5/MX
- Knowledge in MAYA and other 3d/2d animation tools is a plus.
- Knowledge in Dreamweaver HTML, is a plus

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!
We offer highly competitive compensation and benefits package, state-of-the-art training and excellent opportunities for career growth.
Send your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

CYBERSOURCE, INC.
Unit 1706 Centerpoint Bldg., Garnett Rd
corner J. Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No. 633-8455 • Fax No. 6356956

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: **INQUIRER**



JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The largest and leading **LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE WORLD** invites applicants for the following positions:

Accounting Supervisor

- Male/Female, 27-31 years old.
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA.
- At least 3 years experience in the application of accounting principles, practices, procedures and financial reporting in a life insurance company.
- Updated knowledge and application of tax regulations and requirements for a life insurance company.
- Proficient in technical and business writing skills.
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision.

Account Officer

- College graduate with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration or any equivalent 4-year course.
- Between 25-35 years old.
- Preferably with Group Insurance experience, both in sales and administration.
- Must be customer service-oriented and with excellent inter-personnel skills.
- Good in oral and written communication.
- Minimum 1-year driving experience.
- Proficient in Windows/MS Office.

We offer an attractive salary and competitive benefit package to the selected candidate. Interested applicants may submit, fax or E-mail their resumé with recent 2x2 colored picture not later than January 9, 2004 at:

NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
21st F Tower 2 RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue
cor. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Fax No. 7532161 I E-mail: p.regio@nipponlife-phil.com.ph

An expanding progressive company
is urgently in need of the following:

ACCOUNTANTS/ACCOUNTING CLERKS/ BOOKKEEPERS/CHEMICAL/ MECHANICAL ENGINEERS/TECHNICIANS/ FEMALE MARKETING ASSISTANT/ SALESMAN/INVENTORY CLERK/ EXECUTIVE/COMPANY DRIVERS

(with more than 10 years driving experience)

Qualifications:

- ➢ Preferably with working experience
- ➢ Computer literate/familiar with windows and office
- ➢ Hardworking, reliable and responsible
- ➢ Good moral character, work ethics and pleasing personality
- ➢ Proficient in English/Tagalog
- ➢ Good oral & written communication skills

Qualified applicant kindly send in your detailed resumé and transcript together with an inexpensive photo to:

Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 380
1502 Greenhills, Metro Manila, Philippines

A transnational company engaged in marketing and distribution of branded household and personal care products urgently needs qualified

Accounting Assistant

We are looking for:

- Accounting graduate preferably has taken the Review and CPA Board Exam.
- A self-starter, thinker, doer rolled into one and worked with less supervision, at least not more than 30 years old.
- With experienced in bookkeeping and financial report preparation.
- Must be computer literate.

We offer competitive salary for successful applicant.

If you have what we're looking for, please submit comprehensive resume to: gentlesupremephil@yahoo.com, or fax at (02) 837-2539, not later than January 3, 2004. Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOBMarket ONLINE

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A large Philippine software house is in need of

MAINFRAME PROGRAMMERS, ANALYSTS, and SPECIALISTS

for a large offshore contract from the USA.

Operating Environment:

Hardware:	IBM Mainframe
Operating System:	OS/390, MVS, or VSE

Key technical skills requirement are:

DBMS:	IMS/DB or DB2 (mandatory) (knowledge of both is an advantage)
TP:	CICS (mandatory)
Programming Language:	COBOL (mandatory) OS/VS JCL (mandatory). S/370 Assembler (added advantage) PL/1 (added advantage)

Positions Open:

Programmer	1-5 years of actual experience
Programmer/Analyst	3-7 years of actual experience
Systems Analyst	5-15 years of actual experience
System Architect	8-15 years of actual experience
Project Manager	8-20 years of actual experience
Tech Support Specialist	based on individual experience
Operations Analyst	based on individual experience

Interested applicants may apply online at the URL indicated below:

http://siva-ph.jobstreet.com/_ads/ph/jobs/2003/12/default/20/150528.htm

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Philam Equitable Life Assurance Company

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PHILAM LIFE A Member of American International Group, Inc An affiliate of Equitable PCI

Build your career in the dynamic world of Bancassurance!

Do you dream of becoming a respected professional, working for a dynamic company which aims to provide financial solutions using world class insurance and investment products?

Are you looking for a career that pays for results and offers excellent promotional opportunities?

Do you search for the challenge and reward of a sales environment but seek the stability of regular employment?

All these await you at PELAC.

Financial Sales Executive (FSE)

We are looking for dedicated and enthusiastic self-starters who will be tasked to identify needs and recommend financial solutions to the customers of Equitable PCI Bank, our strategic partner

Qualifications

- Graduate of any College Course
- Focused, customer-driven and results oriented
- Professional sales experience preferred, particularly in the financial services industry
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Proficiency in Fookien and Mandarin a distinct advantage

Area Manager (AM)

Manages and monitors sales performance of the FSE team in terms of meeting production targets. Manages relationships with branch managers and staff to ensure bank branch support.

Qualifications

- Graduate of any College Course with at least 5 years successful sales experience in the financial services industry
- Must possess strong sense of integrity and entrepreneurial spirit
- Confident and results-oriented
- Preferably familiar with consumer banking operations and/or a licensed life insurance agent

Be a Part of the PHILAM Family !

Submit your resumé, transcript of records and photo now!
Corporate HR, 23rd Floor, Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Email address: Philam.jobs@AIG.com ; Fax #: 885-87-06
Please indicate your desired position in the Subject Title

TREND MICRO™

TrendLabs

Global Antivirus Research & Support Center | In America

Trend Micro™ Incorporated is a global leader in antivirus and content security software and services. Its solutions protect the flow of information on PCs, file servers, email servers and at the Internet gateway, providing a complete, centrally-controlled VirusWall for enterprise networks.

We are looking for top-notch, dynamic, and high caliber performers for the positions of

PRODUCT SUPPORT AND SERVICES (PSS)

Senior Product Specialist

(Job Code: PSS-CORE01)

Responsibilities:

- Deliver High Quality Solutions to Customers Quickly, Courteously and Cost-effectively
- Provide the highest level of Technical Support to our customers through technical expertise
- High caliber performers who will be joining our team in providing advanced Technical Support to customers.
- The candidate will be handling cases coming from Premium Enterprise Customers, Channels/Partners/Resellers as well as act as escalation point to our Level 2 support engineers.
- Will be working closely with software development team and Service Engineering Group in identifying and resolving the problem.
- Effectively interact with the engineering teams to provide solutions to complex technical issues
- Technical Training, Coaching, Mentoring
- Product Testing/Beta Testing
- Maintain and expand working knowledge of current Trend Micro products as well as their integration and methods of support delivery
- On Call , 24x7 Email and Phone Support, willing to be assigned on night shifts
- And other duties required as defined by management

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

➢ Technical Skills

Specific Skills requirement:
The applicant can fall in any of these expertise:

(1) Security Consultant/Professional
- Minimum three (2) Years experience on IT Security
- Experience and knowledge in two or more of the following areas:
- VPN, Cryptography, Public Key Infrastructure
- Penetration Analysis, Information Security Planning, Security Policy Development, Intrusion Detection, Threat Analysis, Virus Control - Network Security, Operating System Security, Internet Security
- Security Certifications a plus (ex. CISSP, SANs, GIAC, ICSA, etc)
- Experience in Windows OS and Unix is preferred

(2) Network Administrator
- Minimum three (2) Years experience as a Network Administrator
- MCSE Certified for Windows NT/2000 or Linux/Solaris Certified Administrator an advantage
- Working knowledge in any of the following Applications:
- Sendmail, MS Exchange Server, Lotus Notes
- MS Proxy, ISA, Firewalls (Checkpoint)
- TCP/IP, WAN, VPN
- Knowledge in FTP, HTTP and SMTP Protocol
- Hands-on experience in Internet/ Networking environment, and client/server applications
- Certification on the following is an advantage: SCSA/SCNA, RHCE, CLA/CLP (Principal), LPIC
- Help Desk / Support Experience is an advantage

(3) Network Programmer (good is C/C++)
- Minimum 2 years programming experience in C/C++ language Practical application of TCP/IP networking code is a must
- Candidate must have a strong background in the design, development, debugging and implementation of network applications
- Knowledge in Windows OS and/or UNIX operating systems
- C and C++ Programming Certification a plus

➢ Core Skills
- Must have a good command of the English language (written and oral)
- Effective customer service skills
- Able to manage multiple complicated assignments simultaneously
- Self-motivated and a team Player - able to work independently
- Passionate interest in IT and possess initiative to keep up with current IT trends.
- Enjoys working in a challenging environment
- Knowledge in software test automation or experience in software test tools development is a plus
- Knowledge in Mandarin or Japanese is an advantage (written and oral)

Beta Test Coordinator

(Job Code: PSS-BTC01)

The beta test coordinator is the core of the beta test team. Handling the mundane items such as shipping, software duplication, product distribution, parts ordering, or other simple but time-consuming tasks, the coordinator allows other team members to focus on the important issues during the test. The test coordinator does the "maintenance" that keeps the beta test engine running.

Responsibilities:

- The beta test coordinator assists the beta test engineer in the gathering of materials for test, packages them appropriately for distribution, and then ships to the site. If the site has an issue or is not compliance, the coordinator must arrange to get the product form the customer
- The coordinator must also monitor the cost to ensure that the department is using the most cost-effective methods possible. In addition, there are numerous laws and regulations involved with some products and their distribution.
- The coordinator must be versed in International software distribution and should be able to address issues quickly.
- Another important responsibility is the monitoring of testing progress and contract compliance of all beta test participants.
- The beta test coordinator also manages the countless administrative aspects of a beta test program. Procurement of everything the department needs and the financial duties associated, the coordinator acts as a department administrator to ensure that the needs of the team are met.
- The coordinator is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a filling system for beta test documents, legal paperwork, NDA, and other important items.
- Once test participants complete a project, they receive a reward for their efforts. This reward is part of the beta incentive program. The coordinator is responsible for collecting information about the performance of each tester and then distributing a corresponding award.
- The beta test coordinator makes certain the testers have everything they need to perform the test. Contacting each participant throughout the test, the coordinator acts as a secondary liaison for the test.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Qualifications:

- Minimum 2 years experience of networking and web/internet protocols including UNIX, TCP/IP and NT.
- Minimum 2 years experience of one or more of the following systems - hardware structures, email, groupware networking and/or web based security.
- Minimum 2 years experience of Firewalls/VPN.
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Engineering (Computer/ Telecommunication), Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent.
- Checkpoint Firewall 1 Certified or a similar Firewall/ VPN Certification.
  MSCE certified.
- CCSA, CCSE, CCNA or CCIE highly desirable.
- Checkpoint Firewall 1 Certified or a similar Firewall/ VPN Certification.
  MSCE certified.
- CCSA, CCSE, CCNA or CCIE highly desirable.
- Education or experience is certainly an important qualification for this position. However, the most important for the beta test coordinator is follow through.
- Persistence is a key factor in being a successful coordinator. Test participants are often difficult to contact, unresponsive, or slow to communicate. A successful coordinator is able to balance the rigors of mundane daily tasks with the unexpected nature of a development schedule.
- The coordinator mixes skills of a department administrator and project manager. The coordinator should have customer service focus, experience working with the public and excellent communication skills.
- 7 Full-Time positions available.

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

IS Director

(Job Code: IS-ISD01)

Responsibilities:

- Manages the internal information systems functions, including applications, networks, and computer operations.
- Leads the team in analyzing the needs of functional departments in regional level and establishing priorities for feasibility studies, system design and implementation to develop and/or modify the business process and information processing systems.
- Coordinates with functional departments involved in system requirements, technical and project management.
- Co-work with corporate IS departments to feedback to the global team, and ensure the compliance of global disciplines/polices, and deployment of global services.
- Selects, develops and evaluates personnel to ensure the efficient operation of the functions.
- Defines and manages department performance metrics to align with business objectives.

Desired experiences

- 10 years in the IS/IT industry with at least 5 years in the management postion.
- In-depth understanding of business operation (both front and back-office).
- Familiar with both application services (ERP, SFA, etc.) and network infrastructure.
- Hands-on experience in project management and system deployment.
- Good verbal and written English communication skills.

Candidates must possess a Masters Degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Engineering or other related discipline.

Senior Developer

(Job Code: IS-SD02)

The Business Process Team Technical Engineer will be the role in implementing the technical IT project. The Technical Engineer must be an excellent communicator with strong technical background and enterprise system architecture design, analysis, implementation skill with good schedule management and team leadership. The technical Engineer will be doing technical specification design, managing program development or technical implementation project, project output quality, monitoring development schedule, coordinating between developer team, QA, IT and project management. Technical Engineer must be experienced in Software development cycle and risk management.

1. Creating high level technical design for the projects and identify technology platforms for the solution
2. Working with Project Manager to identify and review technical resource allocation and project scheduling in different project
3. Effective coordination and guidance to technical teams on large scale and different projects
4. Creating and improving application development processes
5. Technical evaluation and recommendation of vendors6. Work closely with Business Analyst(s) and Architect(s) to ensure successful project implementation.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Engineering (Electrical/ Electronic), Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): C/C++, C#, ASP.NET, ADO.NET, Java
- Preferably skill(s): Siebel, Oracle, MS SQL.
- Must have at Least 5 years+ working experience in the IT industry.
- Must have experience in programming, software architecture design, EAI or enterprise application package implementation such as Siebel, PeopleSoft, Oracle, etc.
- Familiar with Siebel System (2000 or 7.x) is a plus:

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Must have experience with program development by using the following programming language: C/ C++, Java, C#, ADO.NET, ASP.NET
- Must have experience creating SQL statement in either Oracle or MS SQL Server
- Participated in enterprise application package project implementation, configuration or development
- Minimum of 5 years experience in the software industry.

DESIRED SKILLS

- Development experience with BizTalk, Microsoft Content Management Server, SharePoint Portal, CRM, ERP or Enterprise application EAI technologies. Experience in developing/ testing software projects on Siebel or Applix platform is highly desirable.
- Hands-on experience in database (SQL) development
- Hands-on experience in establishing test infrastructure and test automation.
- Experience in UML, XML, XML Schema, Web Services, Database, Data and
- At least 1 year+ working experiences as Siebel configurator or development engineer.Application Integration.
- Demonstrate ability to assess new technologies and recommend solution.
- Must have excellent communication, writing and presentation skills
- Demonstrated ability to deliver product under extreme tight development schedule.
- Preferably supervisor / 5 yrs & up experienced employees specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent.
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status

Integration Technical Manager

(Job Code: IS-ITM03)

This person has three major roles

1. He will have firm wide responsibilities (control the design quality and roadmap): Information, Integration and Interactions (Database, User Interface and Middleware) He will be doing the Business application architecture and integration roadmap, developing standards and processes, publishing standards, audit and review the design and looking to the future of Technology
2. He will be working with the Technical Team, QA Team and project manager locally in doing System Integration and Application Architecture design. He will help the teams come to the right decisions and approach on how to integrate system, ensure system performance, security and reliability are good. This is Microsoft Technologies (.NET, VB, ASP, C, C#.Net, Exchange, SharePoint, CMS, BizTalk, MSMQ, SQL Server), Siebel and the other business systems.
3. Working with the other region Enterprise IT Architecture to look at a broader perspective. This is more of a consultation role making sure all the areas are the correct approach and everyone is on the same page from an enterprise perspective.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma / Master's Degree in Engineering (Computer/ Telecommunication), Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent.
- Preferably skill(s): .NET, VB, ASP, C, C#.Net, Exchange, SharePoint, CMS, BizTalk, MSMQ, SQL Server), Siebel and the other business systems
- 10+ years of work experience in information technology with strong Technical Architecture skills, leadership skills, interpersonal skills.
- Experience in designing, implementing and building enterprise level business system architecture and integration.
- Experience with development lifecycle, peer review process, business system integration and CMM process is a plus.
- Previous experience working on Siebel Call center/ CRM, Biztalk, CMS, Intranet or EAI is also a plus.
- People management or configuration management experience is a plus.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably assistant manager / managers specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent

Information Services – Quality Assurance Engineer

(Job Code: IS-QAE04)

This person has four major roles

1. He will be responsible for testing business process software applications. This responsibility will involve:
   - Designing test strategy
   - Developing test plans
   - Executing test plans
   - Reporting issues
   - Improving test processes
   - Providing information on system enhancements.
2. He will be responsible for training and assigning testing workload to part-time testers who will perform the actual testing. He will need to monitor the progress of the testers and coach them with regards to the system under test
3. He will be responsible for communicating the status of the system under test to upper management. He needs to make sure that the defect tracking system is updated and that the development team is aware of the defect to be fixed.
4. He will be responsible for writing test automation scripts or checking the automation scripts written by other testers.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Engineering (Computer/ Telecommunication), Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent.
- Preferably skill(s): WinRunner, Visual Test.
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- At least 3 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Control/Assurance/Inspection or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

DESIRED EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS

- 3+ years of work experience in software testing with strong process-oriented skills, writing skills and interpersonal skills.
- Experience in planning software testing, designing test cases, writing test specifications and performing actual tests.
- Demonstrated leadership ability, must have managed a test team of at least 3 people.
- Demonstrated communication ability; must have handled reporting to other non-testing groups regarding testing status.
- Experience with Test Automation tools such as WinRunner, Visual Test, etc. is greatly desired.
- Experience with defect tracking software is greatly desired. Experience with software development lifecycle, business system integration and CMM process is a plus.
- Self starter, works well independently and in a team.

Japanese Speaking IT Engineers

(Job Code: JIT05)

Primary Job Functions:

- Provides intermediate level information systems support to ensure infrastructure availability and performance targets are met.
- Test/review security settings of all linux OS & services including apache, sendmail, bind etc
- Monitor the router performance & safety
- Maintain TDSC firewall & VPN integrity.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum Qualifications:

- BS. graduate of an IT related course (preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering)
- Experience in network administrator is a must
- Must have good command of the Japanese Language
- Certification in any of the following will be an advantage:
  CNE/MCP/MCSE/MCSE+I
- Applicants MUST be willing to be assigned on a 24/ 7 shifting schedule.

Operating Systems & Server Software

Must be proficient in:

- Windows NT/2000, 95/98, MS Exchange, MS Proxy, MS IIS
- Office 97/2000 Suite
- Firewall-1 ,VPN-1
- Linux Sendmail, DNS server for Linux / BIND

Networking

Must be proficient in:

- Networking in a Microsoft TCP/IP environment
- Networking in a Linux TCP/IP
- Basic Cisco Router configuration & Management, Basic Routing protocols

ANTIVIRUS DEPARTMENT

Antispam Group – Quality Assurance Engineer

(Job Code: AV-AS01)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBLITIES

- Responsible for writing test automation scripts or checking the automation scripts written by other QAs
- Responsible for writing tools needed for daily operations
- Responsible for AntiSpam Product Testing
- Responsible for the analysis and documention of new techniques of Spam mails
- Effectively present information to management team and to define, analyze and solve problem

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Engineering (Computer/ Telecommunication), Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent.
- Preferably skill(s): MS Exchange, Lotus Notes, SMTP.
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Knowledge in Email systems (i.e. MS Exchange, Sendmail, Lotus Notes and etc.)
- Knowledge in Email Protocols (i.e. MIME, RFC822, SMTP, POP3 and etc.)
- At least 2 years of QA experience with Windows application using automated tools and manual testing
- QA Experience with Linux application using automated tools and manual testing is a PLUS
- Perl, VB, Dos Batch Files and etc.
- Must have good command of the English language
- Knowledgeable in computer networking

Antispam Group - Foreign Language Rule Editor

(Job Code: AV-AS 02)

General Job Description:

- Assist antivirus engineers via phone, chat and email
- Support customers on inquiry related to assigned project
- Proofread and check submitted solutions before deployment to customers
- Conduct quality assurance testing and monitoring of automated systems
- Generate and maintain reports on a daily, weekly and monthly basis
- Gather data on special tasks assigned

Specific Responsibility:

- Foreign Language AntiSpam Rule Editor
- Create English and Foreign Language Antispam rules to be integrated with Trend Micro Products
- Participate in other AntiSpam related activities
- Assist antivirus engineers during virus outbreak
- Support internal customers on Spam related inquiry

Desired Skills:

- Native speaker of German OR Spanish OR French with Read and Write ability
- Internet Surfing
- Email
- Knowledge in the following is a plus:
- HTML Knowledge
- Computer Networking
- Computer Programming, eg. VB, Perl

Antispam Group – Associate Engineer

(Job Code: AV-AS03)

General Job Description:

- Assist antivirus engineers via phone, chat and email
- Support customers on inquiry related to assigned project
- Proofread and check submitted solutions before deployment to customers
- Conduct quality assurance testing and monitoring of automated systems
- Generate and maintain reports on a daily, weekly and monthly basis
- Gather data on special tasks assigned

Specific Responsibility: AntiSpam Rule Editor

- Create Antispam rules to be integrated with Trend Micro Products
- Participate in other AntiSpam related activities
- Assist antivirus engineers during virus outbreak
- Support internal customers on Spam related inquiry

Desired Skills:

- Internet Surfing
- Email
- Knowledge in the following is a plus:
- Proficiency in Foreign languages (Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French and etc.)
- HTML Knowledge
- Computer Networking
- Computer Programming, eg. VB, Perl

Kindly email your resumé (in Word Format) to recruitment@trendmicro.com.ph or recruitment@support.trendmicro.com. In the event that you meet the minimum qualifications of the position that you are applying for, you shall be contacted the soonest.

Visit our URL at:
www.trendmicro.com
Free scan: **http://housecall.antivirus.com**

TOKYO TOKYO

MARKETING MANAGER
(code. MM-1)
Office based
- At least 5 years work experience in Advertising or Marketing, at least 28 years old
- Should be able to conceptualize and execute advertising campaigns and promotions
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Team player
- Can work well with different service groups

MARKETING ASSISTANT (code: MA-1)
Office based
- Female, at least 25 years old, with pleasing personality
- College graduate
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work long hours, weekends & holidays

STORE MARKETING COORDINATOR
(code: SMC-1)
- Male / Female, 18 - 25 years old, with pleasing personality
- College graduate
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work long hours, weekends & holidays
- Willing to be assigned at any Tokyo Tokyo store

GRAPHIC ARTIST (code: GA-1)
Office based
- Female, at least 24 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts, preferably with experience in Advertising
- With knowledge in PC graphic applications
- Willing to work long hours, weekends & holidays

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (code: MT-1)
Store based
- Male / Female, 21 - 25 years old
- College graduate, preferably BS HRA / HRM from a reputable school
- Honest and hardworking
- Willing to work weekends & holidays

CREW MEMBER (code: CM-1)
Store based
- Male / Female, 18 - 25 years old, with pleasing personality
- College level or presently enrolled
- Willing to work part-time or full-time, weekends & holidays

COST CONTROL CLERK (code: CC-1)
Store based
- Male / Female, 21 - 25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting or Business Management
- Honest and hardworking
- Willing to work weekends & holidays

Urgent requirements for the following stores:

Ali Mall
Ayala Metro Point
Eastwood Citywalk
Ever Gotesco Grand Central
Glorietta 1
Greenbelt Mall
Greenhills Shopping Center
Harrison Plaza
Robinsons Ermita
Robinsons Lipa City
Robinsons Metro East
Rockwell Powerplant
Shangrila Plaza Mall
SM Baguio
SM Bicutan
SM Centerpoint
SM Fairview
SM Lucena
SM Manila
SM Marilao
SM Megamall
SM North Edsa Main
SM North Edsa Cyberzone
SM Pampanga
SM Southmall
SM Sucat
Sta Lucia East
Tutuban Centermall

SEND YOUR BIO-DATA OR RESUME AND A 2X2 PHOTO TO:
MS. YVET P. COSEP, TOKYO TOKYO, INC.
#85 P. TUAZON ST., CUBAO, QUEZON CITY 1109
or via e-mail at tokyohrd@tokyotokyo.com
PLEASE INDICATE CODE & PREFERRED STORE

EXPEDIA CARE USA

Invites **Qualified Nurses** with CGFNS or pending
Physical Therapist with FCCPT credentialing or pending
HIRING BY DIRECT PETITIONER FOR IMMIGRANT NURSES
Immediate ETA (INS) forms to accepted applicants

FULL TIME BENEFITS
NO UPFRONT FEES
FREE AIRFARE

JOB FAIR: HELD BY U.S. EMPLOYER INTERVIEWERS

February 21, 2004 — 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Manila Diamond Hotel
Roxas Blvd. corner Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila
Telephone #: 528-3000

February 23, 2004 — 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Bethel Guest House
Rizal Blvd., Dumaguete City
Telephone #: 225-2000

February 24, 2004 — 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
L Fisher Hotel
14th and Lackson St., Bacolod City
Telephone #: 404-3426

February 26, 2004 — 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Hill St., Davao City
Telephone #: 225-8888

February 28, 2004 — 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Benguet Prime Hotel
Corner Session Rd. and Calderon St., Baguio City
Telephone #: 442-7066

** For further info, please contact

LINDA QUINDO ONG VANO
Cell/Text 001630-854-9842 **(use before and after job fair)
001630-362-9841 ** (use before and after job fair)
919-243-4659 ** (use only during job fair dates)
E-Mail: expediacare@comcast.net
www.expediacareusa.net
Fax #: 001 630-497-1924
20 North Roselle Road Roselle, Illinois USA 60172

PROGRAMMER

Position Code: Cobol Prog

COBOL Legacy System with a VB front end

- ☐ Minimum 2 years programming experience in Micro Focus COBOL (or Net COBOL) and 2 years programming experience in VB6.
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in system analysis and design.
- ☐ Knowledge of ISAM file processing is required.
- ☐ Strong analytical skill and effective communication abilities.

Deltek System Philippines – a subsidiary of a 20 year old US based company and a Microsoft Partner – offers a competitive salary package (including Stock Appreciation Rights), a fast-paced working environment and a rewarding career path.

Please send your application to:
Deltek Systems Philippines, Ltd.
26th Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Center
Makati City
Phone: 632-886-5059
E-mail: APPLICANT@DELTEK.COM

Important: Please specify position code as subject in your e-mail.

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Médecins Sans Frontiéres, a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization is now in need of:

One (1) Part-time Pharmacist

To manage the mission pharmacy (capital, project pharmacy and emergency kits)
Qualifications
- BS Degree in Pharmacy with valid license
- Minimum 1 year experience in managing drug inventories, including the proper maintenance of cold chain
- Good networking with drug suppliers
- Knowledgeable in handling the destruction procedure of expired drugs
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relation skills
- Can work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative
- Exposure to non-governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting, preferable
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on a part time basis (once a week only)

All application letters, comprehensive résumés with a recent 2x2 picture are to be mailed and addressed to:

Ms. Ma. Carmela C. Mijares
Medical Doctor
Médecins Sans Frontiéres
#508 Camia St., Palm Village, Estrella, Makati City
Email: msfch-ph@compass.com.ph
Deadline for submission: January 5, 2004

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

is in need of the following personnel:

Project Manager for Rehabilitation Boat (based in Manila):

- Graduate of Engineering
- At least 5 years of solid work experience as Project Manager
- With strong background in construction and project management and monitoring
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to travel

Project Manager for Wheelchairs Production (based in Cagayan de Oro)*:

- Graduate of Engineering
- At least 5 years of solid work experience as Project Manager
- With strong background in construction and project management (with economic aspect), monitoring, and marketing
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in Cagayan de Oro

**Interview will be conducted either in Manila or Cagayan de Oro*

THESE POSITIONS ARE FOR HIRING IN EARLY JANUARY 2004

Please send your resumé and/or CV through post mail or e-mail to:

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Maria Lorna N. Cusi
42 Ponce Street San Lorenzo Village, 1223 Makati City
E-mail: hiphil03@yahoo.com

All applications must be received on or before **January 8, 2004.** Only applicants meeting the above requirements will be considered for interview.

VACANT POSITION
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER II

Requirements:

Education/Eligiblity : Certified Public Accountant (R.A. 1080) with Master in Business Administration or Master in Public Administration

Experience : 4 years in position involving management and supervision, preferably in foreign-funded project/s

Training : 24 hours (minimum) training on management and supervision

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications to the address below not later than January 9, 2004.

NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director
ARMM Social Fund Project
3/F VHW Building (Land Bank)
Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City

ORICA

We are a multinational manufacturing company in need of the following:

- Licensed Mining Engineer or recent board passers are encouraged to apply.
- A Safety Health and Environment Practitioner with minimum qualifications set by Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS). Has work experience in a high performing manufacturing company which is particular on Safety Health and Environment.
- A Certified Public Accountant or recent board passers are encouraged to apply.

Applicants may send their curriculum vitaé to the following:

HR Manager
7/F Guada Building
No. 31 EDSA Mandaluyong City
arlene.quebral@orica.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SERVICE TECHNICIANS (For Sentricon / Termite)

- Male / Female
- Single
- Healthy
- College Graduate
- Preferably with VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
- With good P.R.
- Not more than 24 years old
- Willing to work on day and night shift
- Possess good moral character
- Experience not necessary

Interested applicants may apply in person at NO KA OI (Phils.) Int'l. Inc., Unit 708 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City and look for MS. BENI ARCILLAS. Interview will be on December 29 to 30, 2003. Please bring complete requirements. Previous applicant need not apply.

For IMMEDIATE HIRING!

ACCOUNTING CLERKS/STORE SUPERVISOR

- B.S. Accounting graduate
- With at least 1 year experience in bookkeeping, payroll & auditing
- Proficient in lotus & windows application
- With supervisory skills

Other Vacancies include: Checkers, Drivers, Waiters & Cashiers
APPLY IN PERSON at:

MEGA INTEGRATED SERVICES CORP.
5 J. Abad Santos St., Heroes Hill, Quezon City
371-3588/371-3582

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB Market Online
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

is in need of the following personnel:

Finance Assistant (based in Manila):

- Graduate of Finance/Financial Management
- At least 3 years work experience in preparing and monitoring of budgets, accounting, purchasing and inventory
- Experience in NGOs collaborating with different funding agencies, donors, and cost sharing
- Good oral and written communication skills

Logistician (based in Cagayan de Oro)*:

- College graduate (any 4-year business course)
- At least 3 years work experience in purchasing (office and field) and inventory management, specifically in the construction industry
- Has an established network of suppliers and similar references

Candidates for the above position must be:

- Fast learner
- Responsible, well-organized and can work with less supervision
- Preferably with working experience in an NGO

**Interview will be conducted either in Manila or Cagayan de Oro*

THESE POSITIONS ARE FOR HIRING IN EARLY JANUARY 2004

Please send your resumé and/or CV through post mail or e-mail to:

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Maria Lorna N. Cusi
42 Ponce Street San Lorenzo Village, 1223 Makati City
E-mail: hiphil03@yahoo.com

All applications must be received on or before **January 6, 2004.** Only applicants meeting the above requirements will be considered for interview.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MAIL/RECORDS & CORRESPONDENCE CLERK

Incumbent is responsible for the unclassified mail and pouch operation of the organization. Assigns action on unclassified cables and correspondence. Performs and manages the whole section's tasks by himself/herself when the supervisor is not in the office. Duties include checking outgoing official and personal mail for proper addresses, return addresses, enclosures and correct postage. Determines which method of transporting mail is appropriate (local, international, express mail or commercial messenger service). Responsible for picking-up local mail at the Post Office. Provides retrieval services to offices requiring files stored at the Warehouse, assists in removing files from storage area for destruction and proper disposition.

QUALIFICATIONS: Completion of secondary school. One and one-half years of mail handling experience is required. Must have a thorough knowledge of general mail handling procedures.

COMPENSATION: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 2, 2004

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

Telemarketing Representative/Person:

Qualification: Fluent English speaking person - Telemarketing experience - Heavy phone sales - Computer literacy a must - College degree needed - Must be willing to work night shift - Excellent Incentive Program based on performance.

Web Developer:

Qualifications: 1 or more year web development/ design experience (PHT, PEARL, HTML, CGI) - Experienced with front page 2000 or above, dream weaver, etc. - Per project assignments or Part-time work.

Please email resumé to careers@carlintech.com or fax to (OFFICE NO.) 8172585

GCIC
Global Contents Integration Corporation

Foreign based clients located in Mandaluyong, Philippines, is in need of **English Speaking Instructor Associates**. Must have the following qualifications:

- Graduate of any four year degree course from a reputable university or institution
- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Fluency in conversational English
- Good pronunciation and diction, American Accent a PLUS
- Can hold a good conversation in almost any topics (current events, world news, sociology, etc.)
- 25-35 WPM

Submit your application complete with Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance and Reference documents at:

THE HIRING PERSONNEL
Unit 715 Globe Tower 2
Pioneer corner Madison Streets,
Mandaluyong City

Or email at: ovz_gcic@yahoo.com
- ✓ Qualified applicants will be scheduled and called in for a preliminary interview by phone.
- ✓ Provincial applicants are welcome to apply

All-consuming passion

By Teresa Reyes Tunay

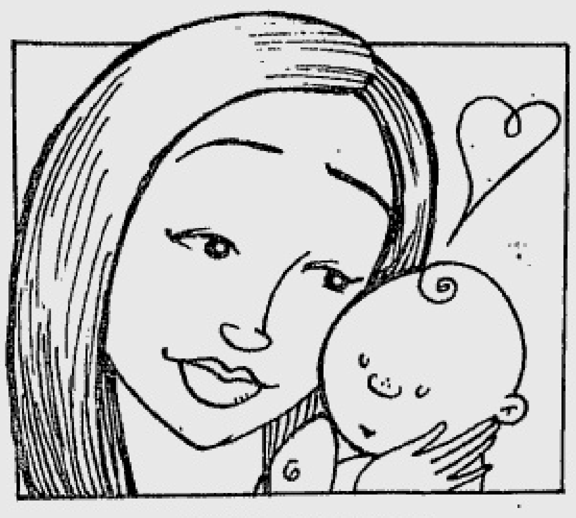
ONE of the hallmarks of the kind of work that makes a difference is: it is all consuming. The one who does it is practically devoured by enthusiasm for that work. One breathes it, talks it, walks it, thinks it. When awake, one daydreams of it; and when asleep, one dreams of it some more. One sees that work in everything, and sees everything in relation to that work. In other words, it is performed with passion. One pursues it against all odds, parrying away all obstacles, discouragement, warnings—to the extent of appearing insolent, disrespectful, or defiant of authority. To others it may seem like an obsession, but to the one who does it, it is destiny.

In our midst we find quite a number of people who may fall under this category—people who are consumed by their work, like a candle that would be useless if not burnt out—tunnel-visioned workers who focus on their job to the exclusion of everything and everybody who cannot support that work. In today's gospel reading, we get a glimpse of what it is like to be such a kind of passionate worker—the 12-year-old Jesus. Engrossed in high level discussion with the teachers at the temple, the boy Jesus is unmindful of his parents' anxiety. Look where the boy's passion brought us.

But before we start confusing the run-of-the-mill workaholics with the truly passionate messiah, let's note that the goal spells the difference between the two. The former is obsessed with his work for himself; the latter burned with passion for others.

(E-mail the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



Gospel Lk 2: 41-52

"When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.'"

Occupation: mother

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

WORK keeps our society going. Without the products and services the workers present to us, we would be paralyzed. We cannot imagine our world without workers who would supply our various kinds of individual and social needs. Yet, we sometimes fail to recognize and appreciate some workers, such as mothers who, through their work as mothers, have a vital role in forming good workers, wholesome work places and a humane and progressive society.

While we do not classify the work of "mothering" as a conventional occupation or profession, and we have yet to find a woman who would put "mother" as a datum in her personal information sheet, mothers do a very important job, which is even more complex than the usual occupations. Mothers do the painstaking job of nourishing even the physical growth of future workers—her children—and the meticulous task of forming good moral values and attitudes in these workers-to-be.

The natural way mothers serve—a service done with spirit and life filled with love and care—teaches the worker to work with one's whole soul and being and not just with one's hands and skills; and to do the work as a personal and loving relationship with others and not just a means of livelihood. Mothers who, like Mary in today's gospel, search with "great anxiety" and find the Child Jesus in everyone, show to the workers the value of a lively faith in Jesus, which in turn makes the workers see the eternal value of work. These few vital functions prompt us to pay special tribute to the mothers!

(Email the author at *mfvg@skyinet.net*)

Are you living ...

From page G8

time and energy in physically transporting people or documents from one place to another. It also provides people more flexibility by allowing more people to work from home.

That most respondents learned by themselves and through coaching of peers is also a good sign. It suggests that, at least, for common functions, computers are something that can be learned fairly easily. However, this does not discount the importance of formal education or training especially for more complex programs and for those with little experience in computer use.

From a different perspective, if it is true that a greater part of our workday is spent in front of the computer then that means that there is less time for face-to-face interactions. It also means that there is greater possibility of computer related stress or "techno-stress." Some people complain that even as computers have helped them in their work, this also means that they are given more and more work.

However, it is likely that the computer is here to stay. It has and will continue to revolutionize our workplace. The question is how can we use it to increase, rather than decrease our quality of work life? Can we harness it rather than be enslaved by it? Because especially for those of you who have been around long enough to remember what it was like to type a report over and over in a typewriter—can you imagine life without a computer?

Work-life balance

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

1. On the average, how many hours a week do you work? ___
2. On the average, how many weekends a month do you work? _____

For questions 3 to 5, please indicate the number corresponding to your agreement with: 1—strongly disagree 2—disagree 3—neutral 4—agree 5—strongly agree

3. Overall, I feel I have work-life balance ______
4. I do not get to spend enough time with my family, friends, and loved ones _____
5. I do not get to spend any time on myself ______
6. Which of the following work-life programs does your company provide? (check all that applies)
   a. Compressed work week
   b. Family leaves
   c. Health and wellness programs
   d. Educational assistance programs
   e. Study leaves
   f. Personal interest seminars
   g. Outreach programs
   h. Counseling services
   i. Stress/time management courses
   j. Housing loans/benefits
   k. Transportation allowance/service
   l. Programs for family
   m. Recreational programs
   n. Telecommuting
   o. Day care
   p. Others (pls specify)

Name: ______________________
Gender: ____________ Civil Status: __________
Nature of Job: ______________________
Company Name: ______________________
Industry: ______________________
Tel/Mobile/Email: ______________________

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:

People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development
2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Fax No. (632) 426-6065; Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph

Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1. (answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or email.

Winners for last month are: Jenice Sumaway and Bing Mejino. Please get your gift packages from Tere of People at Work at tel. no. (632) 897-8808 local 554.

Grants Manager/Office Manager – Philippines

An international marine conservation/sustainable development NGO is seeking to fill the above position as it expands its Asia-Pacific operations. The post's main responsibilities are ensure the organization's compliance with rules and regulations governing grants and contracts; coordinate grants accounting, and, manage and coordinate general office activities and workflow. The position is based in Makati, Metro Manila.

Candidates must be able to:

- Provide leadership and coordination in all areas of financial systems development and management, i.e. accounting, bookkeeping and banking.
- Manage both governmental and non-governmental grants from pre-proposal activity, through award administration, to closing, ensuring compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.
- Advise and support project managers and personnel on grant management and compliance issues.
- Assist in the annual budgeting and prepare all financial reports for grants.
- Build internal grant accounting capacity through training and process enhancement.
- Develop ways to improve efficiency and accountability of office workflow.
- Assist MAC staff with travel and communications

Qualifications:

- Bachelors in accounting, finance or other equivalent degree or at least five years related experience.
- 2-3 years experience in grant accounting, strong preference for experience with USAID grants.
- Experience in managing an office with field staff and activities.
- Good communication skills, both written and spoken.
- Good problem solver, analytical and adaptable.
- Excellent computer (PC) skills and experience, including accounting software, spreadsheets and e-mail.

The organization is seeking a three-year commitment from candidates, based on an annually renewable contract with a salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants should send a covering letter, curriculum vitaé and the names and contact details of three references via email to: Branchmanager@mail2world.com

The closing date for applications is
January 5, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A *leading multinational transport company* is in need of dynamic, assertive and mature professionals to occupy the following positions in our organization:

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Male or Female
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable university
- With extensive experience and background in the field of audit & accounting in a managerial or supervisory capacity
- Proven ability to lead a group of accountants
- A Certified Public Accountant

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male or Female, with pleasing personality
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant working experience preferably gained from the same industry
- Knowledgeable on payables and disbursements
- Good communication skills, mature and organized, and can work extended hours
- Certified Public Accountant, an advantage

CUSTOMS DECLARANT

- Male or Female
- Holder of an appropriate college degree, preferably Customs Administration from a reputable school
- Knowledgeable on cargo handling, customs clearance, brokerage, international and domestic freight forwarding, logistics, IMPEX
- Good communication skills, willing to listen and learn, mature and organized, and can work extended hours

PURCHASING ASSISTANT

- Male
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant working experience preferably gained from the same industry
- Knowledgeable on purchasing/buying and materials or services sourcing
- Trustworthy, good communication skills, mature and organized, and can work extended hours

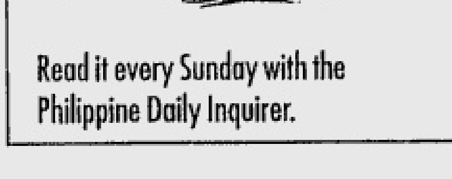
TELEPHONE OPERATOR/ RECEPTIONIST

- Female, preferably single, with very pleasing personality
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant work experience in the same capacity for the position applied for
- With pleasant voice, has good command of English language and communications skills, mature and organized

Qualified candidates are requested to personally submit their comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials to:

MOF Company (Subic), Inc.
6th Floor, CTC Building,
2232 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attention:
THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.



PEOPLESUPPORT is a U.S.-based outsourced provider that delivers world-class, multi-channel customer care solutions from mission-critical contact centers in the Philippines.

PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. started in March 2000, and is regarded as one of the leading call centers in the country today with over 1,700 people in its workforce. Currently operating at the PhilamLife Tower, Robinson's Summit Center in Makati, and at the Asia Town IT Park in Cebu

PEOPLESUPPORT®

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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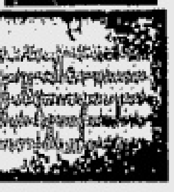

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Job application tips ...

From page G8

FONTANILLA

FLORES

ELANE

MARTIN

HERNANDEZ

SOLDAO

ROSINI

"There should be no name dropping and false pretenses," adds **Atty. Antonio Fontanilla of Century Park Hotel**. Do not pretend to be someone you are not. There is always a way of checking. That is what references are for. **Melissa Flores, HRD manager of EO Executive Optical** reaffirms by saying, "Nowadays, most companies appreciate applicants who are honest about their previous employment. HR practitioners have a way of validating what is written in their resumes."

Integrity is an important trait that you should display. "It is difficult to be an executive if you can not be trusted," **Efren Elane, HR director of Golden ABC** explains.

On time

Don't mind if you have to wait outside the office for hours. Bring a pack of crackers in case your waiting drags until your tummy starts to complain. HR people usually have more work than they can handle. Therefore, it is only natural that you wait. In fact, you should be thankful that you have a job opportunity to wait for.

Punctuality and promptness, according to **Max's HR manager, Rolly Martin** and **IPAMS president Angelito Hernandez** are important. If not on the dot, come ten to fifteen minutes earlier to give time to compose yourself, relax and get comfortable with the new environment.

Actions speak louder

Be conscious of your movements. Your gestures and stance say a lot. "As we go along with the conversation you'll be able gauge his thoughts, his actions and his verbal communications," says **Vilma Soldao, assistant general manager of Edmark Group of Companies**.

Shake hands with a strong grip. A weak grip will say exactly the same about you. Look your interviewer in the eye. If you get too self-conscious, look at the person between the eyes or on the bridge of the nose. This will give the illusion that you are making direct eye contact.

Speak clearly and audibly. Take your time and think carefully before answering during the interview. Sit up straight and avoid slouching. Practice a mock interview with a friend and ask for his/hér observation and opinion. Is your voice to too soft? Do you come across as credible and capable?

As **Mariecor Salas-Ding, president of MSD Personnel Development Consultants** said, "Brains, skills and PR prowess sometimes, even a combination of these three isn't enough to suceeed in the workplace. Women have to learn the importance of building a winning image, both in manner of dress and carriage." The same goes for the gentlemen too.

Dress smart

Research has shown that all things being equal, the outer package could spell the difference between success and failure. Know the corporate rules of dressing. According to Salas-Ding in her "Developing a Winning Image" seminar, a well-tailored and well-fitted suit covers the greater portion of the body and therefore makes it the "central power garment." She adds, "Men and women in suits are most likely to be respected, trusted and obeyed."

An alternative would be tailored cut blouses and skirts or dresses for women. Most recruitment officers consider pants as unsuitable for interviews. For men, dark formal slacks, long-sleeved polo shirt and tie or barong are smiled upon. Some companies adapt a more casual dress code. Again, this is where a little information about your prospective employer would come handy. Whatever you decide to wear, top it off with a clean haircut or hair-do, trimmed nails, basic hygiene and a winning smile.

Skills check

A diploma alone will not guarantee you a job. Most jobs require basic skills aside from that earned from your degree. Before you gear up to charge, make a checklist to make sure you're equipped properly.

Communication is one of the most vital skills one needs to possess. "Do well in English communication endeavors," affirms Aly Ginez of SPI Technologies. If the interviewer asks you a question in English, make sure you answer in English as well. Do not resort to pidgin English. It is better to speak entirely in Tagalog rather than in "*Taglish*."

Computer literacy

Most, if not all, workplaces are run by the latest technology. Brush up on your computer know-how. You do not have to be a computer geek. Just make sure you are computer literate. If you do not know what a CPU is, it might be a wise idea to take short computer courses. Learn basic computer applications like word processors and spreadsheets. Also learn how to work the Internet. It would also be judicious to check on your interpersonal skills, leadership skills and organizational skills.

Prepare for rejections

If you make it on the first try, consider yourself lucky. But not everyone makes it on the first bat. Not even musical genius George Gerswhin who sold his first composition only after a hundred tries. If you do not get the job, then it wasn't meant for you. Job Market is teaming with openings and careers opportunities. Keep an open mind and do not call it a day just yet.

"Disappointments and failures do come. They are part of life," reassures Bongato.

Smugly you think your highly decorated resume with the outstanding degree from one of the best universities in the city will buy you the distinguished executive job you've been eyeing. Often though, you may have to start from rock bottom. **HRMD manager Dina Rosini of Cinderella Marketing Corporation** narrates, "I have interviewed a lot of young pros and most of the time, they lack the will and enthusiasm to earn from the start. They thought all the while that since they are now professionals, they can just demand and ask for the compensation package without realizing the fact that they should prove themselves (their worth) first and increase their marketability."

But if your stubborn and ambitious heart is set on the job you were rejected at, give it some time. Earn experience and continue learning for the meantime. After a couple of years, apply for the same job again. There is this greater chance that your target employer will give you more merit after the experience you've gained. When all else fails, lift up everything to the Boss of all bosses. After all, we can never be totally in control.

Make a difference this New Year

HANDS On Manila Foundation welcomes new volunteers for the New Year! Join us and become part of a growing corps of volunteers to make Metro Manila a better place to live in. Spend an hour or two to share meals with streetkids, help young students with their homework, or paint a room in children's shelter – these are some of the simple but meaningful volunteer services you can do on your free time. Come to the New Volunteers Orientation on January 7, 2004, at 6 pm at the Power Books Store in Greenbelt 4 Makati City and become a volunteer. For more information, please call 843-7044 or 843-5231.

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Sunday PEOPLE *at* WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

Are you living a computer-connected life?

By Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, Ph.D, Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo CORD) and Ma. Regina E. Estuar, MSCS, Department of Information Systems and Computer Science

OF THE various technological innovations in the past century, none has changed our lives as much as the computer. First used for computational purposes, it has now invaded many aspects of our lives—especially at work. More and more businesses are computerizing and having computer skills is now becoming a must if one is to be employable. The rise of computer schools, Internet cafes, and specialized computer related courses and computer related jobs all attest to this. With the unstoppable, transformational effects that computers have, we wanted to find out how computers have affected people at work.

For this month, we asked our readers 1) How much access do you have to a computer in your workplace? 2) How much of your work time is spent using a computer? We also asked respondents to tell us what they use the computer for, where they learned to use the computer and what they feel about computers.

There were 74 people who responded to our survey. The respondents were of various positions and industries from corporate, academe, government and non-government organizations.

Computer access and use

We asked respondents how much access they had to computers. A majority of our respondents (73%) said that they are provided with their own computers at work and the remaining 27% said that they share a computer with their colleagues.

How much time do workers spend in front of the computer? For our sample, computer use ranged from 10 to 100 percent of their work time with an average of two-thirds of their work time spent in front of the computer.

With so many hours spent in front of the computer, what do they use the computer for? The most popular use of the computer is for word processing (23%). This is followed by spreadsheets and email functions (16% each). The computer is also widely used for database applications (14%), Internet functions such as searching (13%) and presentations (10%).

How did they learn to use the computer? Interestingly almost three out of four respondents learned how to use the computer through trial and error and self-study. Around half of respondents learned computers via coaching from peers. Around a fourth learned by attending computer training programs and going to computer schools. A small number (14%) learned via computer books, CDs and tutorials.

Positive attitudes

Not surprisingly, this sample's attitudes towards computers were quite positive. All respondents agreed that computers have made them more productive. A great majority agreed that computers could be fun and were not afraid of computers (97%). The only possible disadvantage of computers according to around two-thirds of our respondents is that computers could actually increase (rather than decrease) the amount of work that needs to be done.

Acceptance

What can we make from these results? Although a glance at the responses seem to show that computers have been assimilated and accepted in the workplace by the workforce, we can gather that those who have responded to the survey are simply those who have access to the technology. This is in contrast to a previous study done by Hechanova and Dioquino (2002) who found that one of three Filipino workers were "techno phobic." Of course, it is possible that this survey's respondents are not quite reflective of the average Filipino worker. The fact that three-fourth of our respondents did so via email suggests that this sample are quite tech savvy already.

DIONSIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Beyond the limitations of the sample, however, the high usage of the computer can be both boon and bane. On one hand, computers can, indeed, make us more productive. They enable us to create and edit documents in faster time and have made the typewriter almost obsolete. Information generation and computation can be done more quickly with better quality as human error is decreased. As a communication device, it saves much

AREYOULIVING/G6

Job application tips straight from the experts

GINEZ

BONGATO

ROSENTHAL

AQUINO

By Candy G. Villanueva

YOUR interviewer looks at you with a quiet gaze. He is amiable and readily smiles at the right moments. But beneath that friendly façade, you know he is sizing you up and reading you like a toddler's nursery rhyme book. Agonizingly, you try to read his mind back. What is he thinking? Are you saying the right things? Are you what they're looking for or are you just wasting your time?

Applying for a job is never an easy task. Aside from the weeks spent perusing the classifieds with clammy fingers and the countless hours willing for the phone to ring, the interview experience alone is enough to leave you a wreck and sleepless for days.

But what if you knew what your prospective employer wants? Sweat no more. We've braved the traffic plagued Metro and talked with several HR professionals from reputable companies to give you a peek into the minds of your unintentional "tormentors." HR professionals, the hiring force of every company, hold the future of your career in their hands. It is only apt that we ask the professionals for some tips. Sit up and read on.

Know thy self

"Plan your career or vocation," advises **Aly Ginez, HR manager of SPI Technologies**. Start by finding out what you want and what you're good at. Don't go applying to every job opening there is. If you've never sung a single decent note in your life, don't go to an audition singing your favorite aria. If you really love music, there are other avenues you could try related to the same field. You could be a music critique or excel at playing the cello.

Most universities give out personality tests to help you figure out exactly what you could be good at. Consult your guidance counselor. Look for a mentor or seek some wisdom from an older friend or relative. "Think about what you really want to achieve both personal and professional. Write them down. It is important that goals are written down. Focus on your goals and go for it, " encourages **Penny Bongato, HR director of Convergys Philippines.**

Be a cub scout

Cub scout, Girl Scout or Boy Scout, whatever you call them, they always come prepared. And so should you. Know the company you're applying for. "Understand the business, " says Cris Rosenthal, HR Director of Ambergris. This way, you'll be ready for whatever question they throw at you. Bongato advises, "Truly understand the work you are applying for. Do your homework. Research and ask around. Then, be prepared for that first interview." You have to convince the interviewer that their company is your company of choice. How can you aspire for a company you do not know?

Try to know your interviewer too. A good tip is to befriend the receptionist. Instead of fidgeting in the freezing lobby while waiting for your interview, ask the receptionist or the secretary about their boss. The little exchange might get you some tips that could earn you the job. In the movie "Shining Through" just before Melanie Griffith, who was wearing a hat, was about to enter the interviewer's room, she was told by the secretary that the boss hated women wearing hats. Just in the nick of time, she pulled off her hat before she got escorted to the interview.

Don't forget the tools as well. Bring a pen, a copy of your resume, your transcript of records and an I.D. picture.

Be honest

You are dealing with professionals who evaluate dozens of applicants every week. These professionals are trained to read people. **Sykes's HR recruitment manager Daisy Aquino** claims that the moment she sees an applicant, she can immediately gauge the person's capabilities. "It's all about gut feel, intuition and reading vibes," she says.

JOBAPPLICATION/G7

'Can you give me a career coach?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I ONLY just recently discovered your column in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and some of the letters you featured struck painful chords. For one, in the Sept. 21 issue, Worried and Confused wrote you about being adrift in his career. Well, I lost my job after 16 years of service and have used up my savings and now dredging the goodwill of relatives. I am really, really desperate for employment. I've been scanning the Sunday *Job Market* pages and count myself lucky if I find two positions that I could meet even half the qualifications required.

The first obstacle I've come up against is age: I'm 38 years old and most positions have age requirements below 30 or 35, and those that will accept "older" applicants are for senior medical, engineering or other technical areas. I only have an AB in Social Sciences and no graduate or post-graduate units to my credit. I was trained to be a computer programmer/analyst but when our systems were upgraded, I was not among those retrained and so have been rendered obsolete. I was already burning out on IT anyway and looking to apply my logic formulation and analytical skills on policy research and analysis—I've become very interested in strategic planning and crisis management but had little opportunity to pursue this interest.

The second obstacle is my resume: How do I present my qualifications, acquired training and experience from my previous job so that I can at least get into a new career path that I've had little or no direct relevant experience at all? The job I lost was the first I'd ever had and I wasn't exactly planning on losing it but at the time, I was in no condition emotionally and psychologically to handle it well: I totally blanked out on life for months and I'm only now working my way back. I guess my exit record will probably be another job obstacle for me. I have it worse than Worried and Confused: my resume is not only bland and mediocre; it's got a big black mark against me too!

In a previous column, you offered the writer a career coach from your company and I would like to ask if I could avail of this service as well. I went into my first job right out of college and without really thinking much beyond earning a paycheck. I'd like to think I've gained maturity over those 16 years in service, so now I want to be more prepared and organized as I re-launch myself into a new career. In the beginning, I really took it hard losing my job so abruptly; but now that I've had time to think things over, I realize it's a great opportunity for me to have a new beginning—if I could ever manage to get started on it, that is.

I would really appreciate any advice you can give me. I don't know if you reply to letters in your column only. I can only hope that you will be able to find the time and opportunity to answer my letter because I really need guidance.

Burnt-out and Clueless

DIONSIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

I empathize with you in your current situation. Do not let your age affect you. I know of many people older than you who successfully shifted careers. While it is true that many companies prefer younger employees, there are also companies who value experience. I suggest you go ahead and re-launch your career. You have been through a major personal change. There was the sudden ending, your losing a job that you held for many years. Then, you went through a neutral zone of feeling confused, probably also feeling betrayed. But now, you are ready to move on. Congratulations! The experience you went through is typical for people undergoing transformational change.

Live every present moment well. Learn from the mistakes of the past. But don't be attached to the remorse and regrets of the past. Remember the past is gone and will never come back. The future is full of promise.

Going over your letter, my suggestion is for you to find another job in your area of competence first. Holding a job will enable you to regain your self-esteem and at the same time, provide you some cash flow. Very clearly, if you decide to go into a job in strategic planning and policy formulation, you would need to gain competence in the area. This means pursuing short courses on the subject matter or a master's in business or management.

The next time you find a job, go for continuous learning. Try to develop multiple skills. They will provide you with flexibility in case of sudden organizational change. At the same time, you can leverage the competencies you possess when you seek ways of enriching your career.

If you desire to avail of coaching from an Ancilla consultant, please call us and give us information how to get in touch with you. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send Feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
December 28, 2003

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID

By the SIM Staff

OH, what a tangled web of words we wove in 2003. The revolutions, confessions and discussions were well-covered, and we devoured all of it. It almost seemed as if we couldn't keep pace with all the crazy things that were happening all around us. But this was no movie: We were living it. Heroes rose and fell, villains we tried to identify and others, well, just mesmerized us with the high jinks that made up their personal lives now made public. It was a year of tearful revelations, of will-he-run-or-won't-he, of suspense and tragicomedy that even the most excitable TV writer could not have cooked up. In the end, 2003 was all about the people we loved, and those we loved to hate, the folks we remember fondly and those we hope to forget. Now, culled from the headlines, here are those people, wired for sound as we present the most memorable quotes from the past 12 months. Ruel S. De Vera

To page 3

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Get ready to laugh, cry and remember, as SIM brings you the best quotes of 2003

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

Never Here, Never Home

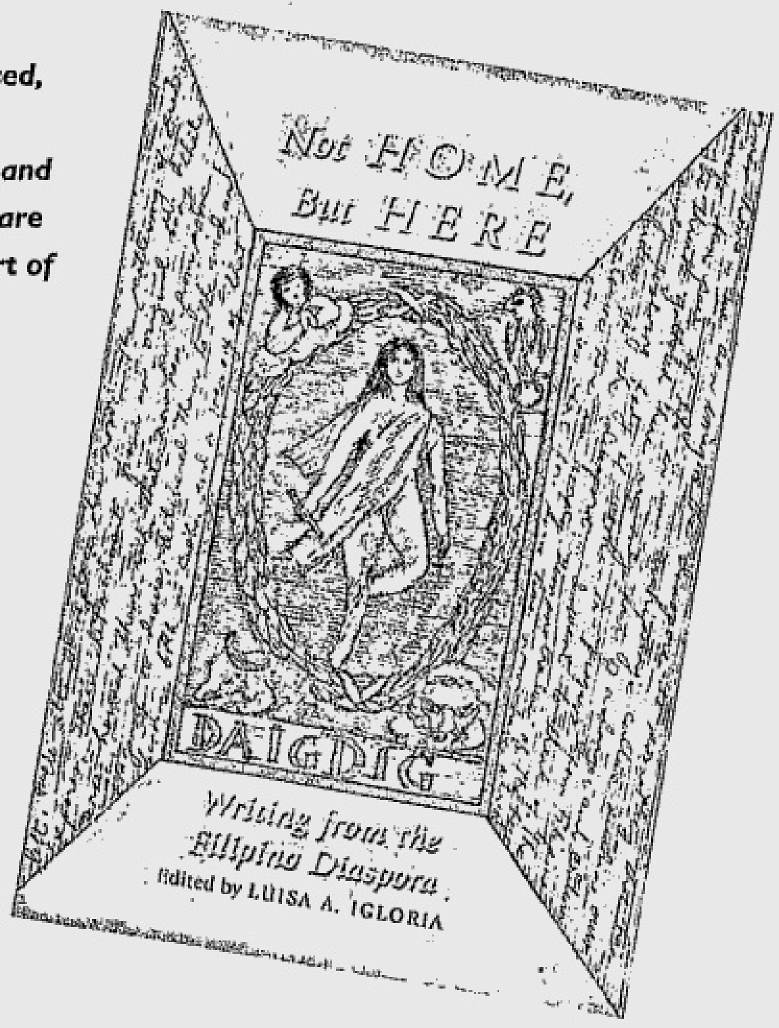
Even though I have witnessed, felt, walked and played in snow for three decades, it and the landscapes it suggests are not and never will be a part of my interior geography

NEW YORK—The few birds perched on the leafless branches of the tree outside the window of my study surprise me. What, I wonder, are these birds doing here? Blessed with the gift of flight, why aren't they someplace warm and sunny, where trees come fully leaved, and pickings always plentiful? Do they dream of these things? Then again, what am I doing here, an odd bird myself? This is the second weekend in a row that a snowstorm has blanketed the city. The backyards, vacant lots, and cars outside make for a peculiar but appealing mixture of colors and shapes, from the square, faded-red brick buildings and metallic gray fences, to dark brown tree trunks and three shades of green in the sidings of two-story homes and in some scattered pines. A plume of fireplace smoke curls up, going against the stream of steady snowflakes.

Winter invariably reminds me of feverish, tropical climes, not because of what it is but for what it is not. Those countless tiny white crystals take on the role of notes in a massive, recurring symphony not only of Nature, but of memory, the playing of which—necessary in either case—always stands as a harbinger of, and prelude to, very particular sentiments, one above all that unfailingly stands out: that even though I have witnessed, felt, walked and played in snow—falling, piled, melting, as hard as concrete—for three decades, it and the landscapes it suggests are not and will never be a part of my interior geography. While there's snow on the ground right now, I no longer think of Christmas carols, of sleigh bells ringing, Santa Claus ho-ho-hoing, with all the world as a winter wonderland. Funny, to recall that as I grew up in Manila, the Yuletide season conjured up benign wintry scenes, giving me and my friends an added frisson to being out in the cool night air, in jackets and sweaters, whether for simbang gabi, caroling, or partaking in innumerable holiday revels. Naifs that we were, we thought being in the cold was being cool.

What I remember at a moment like this, with the radiator burbling away, is water, and not just water, but rainwater, and not just rainwater, but typhoons, that transform the world into a gigantic sheet of wet wind, shaking trees (and our cockiness), wrecking roofs, and whipping Manila Bay into a frenzy. Such an instinctive, involuntary recollection—this is what tells me that I am part of a diaspora, a seed fallen far from its home tree. I think of these things as I consider the book in front of me, one that talks in many voices of what living elsewhere means to different Filipinos. The recently released "Not Home but Here: Writings from the Filipino Diaspora" (Anvil Publishing), edited by Virginia-based poet by-way-of-Baguio Luisa A. Igloria, has 15 essays by 15 writers, scattered from Seoul to Paris, from Manhattan to Mannheim. Poet Nick Carbo of Miami ruminates on our Hispanic past and ends by beginning "to make beautiful books." In Dhaka, the bell tolls for Loreta Medina, signaling office meetings, but prompting recollections of "dirty" ice cream, and the Angelus. Reine Arcache Melvin confesses that in Paris she continues to long for Manila because "If I closed the door on it, I would close the door on my heart as well." McDonald's figures as an unlikely place where New Yorker Bino Realuyo has an epiphany, that indeed he has "become a little more American." For Leny Mendoza-Strobel the voyage west (California in this case) has had the opposite effect: with her *lola* as a kind of guide, she rediscovers an irreducible sense of Filipino-ness, helped along by Buddhism.

The anthology underscores the fact that the experience of being an expatriate, exile, refugee, and/or immigrant (however one chooses to categorize one's self) resists pigeonholing. Sure, certain themes keep cropping up—difference, sense of place, nostalgia, history, language, among others. But the voices, ranging from the worldly and intensely personal, to the philosophical and humorous, tell us or hint of multitudes of voices, whether of ancestors, peers, alter egos, or contrarian ones. As Igloria points out in her introduction, "To write as a Filipino abroad today has even more meanings than this project is able to imagine, or realize, at this juncture…The threads gathered here are only part of a larger and continuously evolving body of works-in-progress from Filipino writers in the diaspora." That diaspora, whose predecessors include Rizal and his fellow *ilustrados* as well as the 16th century Manilamen of New Orleans, and today encompasses practically the whole range of Philippine society, continues to grow. And it is through writings such as are contained in this book that we get intimate and heartfelt glimpses of that expanded world.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Edited by LUISA A. IGLORIA

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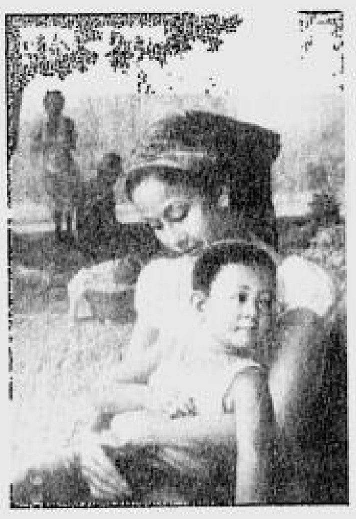

DANTE'S ART *"Mag-ina"* is a typical work of art depicting Dante Castillo's inclination to paint his favorite rural themes from his native soil in Pangasinan. He was the featured artist for the 17th Year of Blue and White plates *"Mag-ina 2002"* of the Catholic Women's Club. He is currently holding an exhibit until Dec. 31 at the Gallery 139, Glorietta IV, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Christmas Day at the Movies

Fiftyish, hair sleeked back, short, dark, stumpy.
Shitheel sits beside me on the last row,
Jacket atop his crotch, left hand moving
Up and down in no time he must have kept
His fly open walking in. From the corner
Of my eye I catch the stinker's head turned
Toward the girl beside him (one of three
Watching "The Watcher"). Sensing me watching
He steals a quick glance at me and shifts weight.
Then the dork picks up his pumping, never
Looking at the screen. Girl moves down three seats
Beside her friend. Dickhead pauses, then pumps up
With resolve and such care I hardly feel
His manual traffic. The girls snicker. They must
Have peeked at the geek. One turns her cellphone on
And texts (for help?), the mucoid square of light
Bobbing up and down our row. Prick keeps at it,
Then slides up to the edge of his seat, stiff
As a dead rat held by the tail. Next I see
From the corner of my eye he is wiping
His thing with a hanky that he folds up
And pockets. No slimy lime of come juice
Sleazes the air, poor thing. Scum slumps back to watch
The screen, burps, then stands up and leaves, jacket slung
Over left forearm like a deflated armor
Wrung dry, limp, and borne with bugger glory.
Later, the girls file out at the other end
Of the row. I am left alone to make
Heads or tails of what I paid for to see.
Reindeer must be parked here, and this is how
It is under their hooves in this boggy bog.

Ricardo M. de Ungria

Love Notes

By Joe D' Mango

Loving a Friend— and Risking a Friendship

There are times I feel so jealous and insecure, but I know it's not right to feel this way. I cannot pretend that I'm okay

Dear Joe,

I never thought that I would have to confide this problem to someone. Maybe it's just at this moment that I feel so lonely, mixed-up and depressed. I'm a senior college student in one of the universities here in Manila. My story is about my secret love for my closest guy friend, Elijah. We've been friends since first year college. We hang out together, we share the same circle of friends, we're both into music. We just have a lot of things in common. We are very close, but believe me, there is nothing romantic between us. That is too far from my mind.

Funny, but circumstances confused my feelings. I couldn't explain what I was feeling. Suddenly, there was this need to be guarded with my actions. I shiver every time he holds my hand. I started to feel something different. I started to get jealous of his other girl friends. I was able to hide my feelings. But I'm afraid of what I might become. I don't want him to think that I betrayed him.

Joe, I have a best friend named Madeline. She, Elijah and I became close in our junior year. I was so happy to have my two treasured friends always by my side. But something happened. Elijah got drunk in a party, and he admitted to his male friends that he likes Madeline a lot. A common friend of ours confirmed this with me. I didn't believe it. I even told Madeline about it. She didn't believe it, too. Rumors spread fast. Do you know how I felt, Joe? I was so messed up. I hated the truth. I hated the idea of my two friends being paired off. In spite of all the gossip and teasing, their friendship didn't change. They became even closer. It was so painful to see them happy together.

There are times I feel so jealous and insecure, but I know it's not right to feel this way. I cannot pretend that I'm okay. I asked Elijah the truth, and he admitted that he's starting to like Madeline but he has no plans of courting her. That didn't lessen the pain I'm feeling. Madeline knows how I feel for Elijah, but I understand that she wants to remain friends with him. That's how things should be. What should I do? I can't help but feel bad. Am I too selfish? I know myself. I'm hurting and I cannot go on like this. I can't leave them. I don't want to. But what should I do? I need peace of mind. I'm not ready to give up my feelings for Elijah and I don't want to ruin the friendship between the three of us. But they are starting to notice my problem. They know me well, and they know that something's going on.

One day, Elijah accidentally saw an unaddressed letter in my notepad. It is about this predicament, that I couldn't help falling in love with a certain guy friend of mine. He began to ask questions. He also asked if I'm jealous of Madeline. I think he knows. What now? Should I finally admit my feelings for him? It's hard to lie. I'm not ready for the consequences of admitting it to him. I'm really confused now. Please help me out. I need to be enlightened. Thanks for your time and for reading my letter. God bless and more power!

Tintin

Dear Tintin,

I have always believed in being open and honest about my feelings for other people. It has disadvantages sometimes. But, as a general rule, it is quite liberating and very helpful.

When we talk about feelings of affection, things become a bit more sensitive because it implies some form of commitment which not many are comfortable with.

Tintin, you are bound to put your friendship to the test once you tell your guy friend what you feel for him. I know you wouldn't want to risk that, but you cannot bottle up your feelings forever. Many of us suffer because we are too afraid to face the consequences of our own affection for other people. I know there is always the possibility of being rejected, but that is all part of it. There is no guarantee that we will be understood or accepted once we express our love for a person.

Those who are not afraid to take this risk are the only ones who are liberated from their fears. Let us always remember that true love knows no fears. True love is brave enough to take the risk. True love is strong enough to speak up.

Sometimes letting a person know how much he or she means to us is the best favor that we can give ourselves. If that person accepts us, then we become free to explore the possibilities of a relationship. But if that person turns away and avoids us, then it just means that our love is meant for someone else.

Be brave, Tintin. Every journey starts with a small step. I wish you well, and please let me know how it turns out.

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID

...from page 1

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

JANUARY

"I feel peaceful, liberated...Now I can get to work, I can do the right things."
-**President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA)**, *after announcing she would not run in the 2004 polls*

"I won't run because I might win. I run every day and I'll keep this up until 2004. But I run only on my doctor's orders."
-**Former President Fidel V. Ramos**, *joking about running in the 2004 elections*

"We will try to make our modest contribution because we're not a mighty country...I can't see the Philippines sending combat troops to join a foreign war, but it is in the realm of possibility to send a humanitarian force, medical teams and engineers to support our allies in the Middle East."
-**Foreign Affairs Sec. Blas Ople**, *on the US request for general support in the event of a war in Iraq*

"I've enjoyed answering your questions, trying to explain again and again the things we're doing. It's a very good and exciting experience."
-Exiting Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao

Ruffa Gutierrez

"Happy tears, happy tears."
-Model and teacher **Patricia Borromeo,** *as she passed away of cancer at age 31*

"I think the movement in the House cannot be stopped."
-**Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Rep. Raul Gonzales** *on the momentum of charter change in the Lower House*

"I ask you to make your sacrifice. Take a gamble. I took the plunge and I'm glad of it. Stay with me. I have no motive to lead you or the people astray."
-**GMA** *addressing the Philippine Stock Exchange*

"Like in basketball, we are on our last two minutes to move this country forward."
-12:30 Movement spokesperson **Chaco Molina,** *on the need for immediate action and reform*

"He was at the wrong place at the wrong time."
-**Millie Matias**, on her nephew, slain law student Jose Ramon Llamas, who was gunned down after a road altercation

"We are appealing to other governments that we in fact consider friends to be more circumspect in issuing advisories."
-**Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye,** *on a new travel advisory issued by the United States, warning its citizens to be careful when traveling to the Philippines*

"It feels good seeing my colleagues again, It's been two years since I've been here."
-**Ex-President Joseph Estrada**, *on appearing before the Senate during an investigation of the Impsa controversy*

"I don't think it's a sacrifice on her part."
-**Ex-Pres. Estrada** *on President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision not to run*

"I waited long enough to play in the PBA and I'm very excited about it."
-Barangay Ginebra top draft pick **Romel Adducul,** *after finally getting a chance to play in the PBA*

Fidel V. Ramos

"I'm not that bad—as long as you work with me. Be honest and true to me, be loyal to me like a friend."
-**Metro Manila Development Authority chairman** *and incoming* **Public Works Secretary Bayani Fernando** *to DPWH employees*

"In fairness to Poe, he does not know us...We are doing this on our own."
-**Manny Portes**, *president of the Freedom, Peace and Justice (FPJ) Movement, on their signature campaign urging action star Fernando Poe, Jr. to run for the presidency*

"I ended up at a crossroads: Should I pursue a stable career or what I love to do?"
-Acoustic phenomenon **Paolo Santos** *on choosing a music career instead of a career in finance*

"It's needed *talaga*. People here in the Philippines, especially when it comes to sexy stars, they want a lot of choices. *Nagsisiksikan*. The more the merrier."
-Viva Hot Babe **Katya Santos**, *on whether the country needed yet another sexy star*

"It's a much-touted draft for a 'final peace agreement' that is nothing more than a demand for the surrender of the principles and weapons of the NPA."
-Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair **Jose Ma. Sison** *in turning down the government's offer of peace*

FEBRUARY

"I'm not saying that I'm ready for anything. What I mean is that I'm ready to serve."
-**Sen. Loren Legarda** *on the idea of running for a higher post in 2004*

Acsa Ramirez

Joseph Estrada

"She has her career and I'm not yet annulled."
-**Mayor Joey Marquez**, *on his then-breakup with TV personality Kris Aquino*

"I cannot give Joey what he wants. He wants someone who is domesticated and subservient, and that's not me."
-**Kris Aquino**, *on her breakup with Joey Marquez*

"I come here primarily to assure our Filipino community that your government cares about you."
-**GMA**, *visiting Filipinos in Kuwait amid widespread fears of war in the Middle East*

"Ping is our candidate; we cannot wait all the time for FPJ to decide whether to enter politics."
-Partido ng Masang Pilipino president **Horacio "Boy" Morales**, *on their backing Sen. Panfilo Lacson's bid for the presidency in 2004*

"Personally, if I have dollars, I'd be converting it around now."
-**Finance Sec. Jose Isidro Camacho**, *on the Philippine peso's decline*

"It's a mess here. Babies, children, mothers, old people, there are thousands of them. There's no dignity inside this warehouse. My heart begins to cry for them."
-**Fr. Roberto Layson**, *on the plight of the Pikit, North Cotabato refugees*

"I don't want it but if duty calls, who am I to refuse?"
-Businessman **Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco** *on a petition signed by congressmen urging him to run for President in 2004*

Joey Marquez

"There was such a huge response. Everybody was just excited to get some exercise."
-Health **Sec. Manuel Dayrit**, *on the more than 100,000 Filipinos who sweated it out simultaneously at Luneta in an attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records' mass aerobics record*

"I thank God for giving me the courage to endure all this. Even though I am a small person, I was given justice. There is still justice in this country."
-Whistleblower **Acsa Ramirez**, *after finally being cleared by the NBI after a 2002 farce where she was mistakenly identified as the culprit*

"I must express great displeasure for your performance that the public expects of our police officers."
-**GMA**, *dressing down Philippine National Police officials for not doing their jobs*

"We must not be resigned as though war is inevitable...We must never lose hope. We must never give up the path to peace and unity."
-**Jaime Cardinal Sin**, *on the wars in Mindanao and Iraq*

"It's like committing suicide, given the historical background of Sulu against the US colonization way back in the 1900s."
-Sulu **Rep. Hussein Amin** *on American troops joining combat operations in Mindanao*

"What was supposed to be an occasion of prayer turned out to be a political circus."
-Iglesia Ni Kristo **Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo** *on President Macapagal-Arroyo's expressing support for the US-led war on Iraq at the INC's prayer rally for peace at Rizal Park*

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando

"We are pushed to the wall, we have to fight back. All who have firearms must fight till death."
-Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader **Hashim Salamat**, *exhorting his followers to resist the government forces' advance in Mindanao*

MARCH

"Even now that he's gone, he gives me reason to be proud of him."
-**Marilou Llamas**, *mother of slain law student Jose Ramon Llamas after learning that her late son had passed the bar*

"We apologize to the victims. We are bothered by our conscience because many have died. We really did not intend to kill or hurt people. But our man was not able to enter the airport and placed the bomb outside."
-Alleged Abu Sayyaf leader **Hamsiraji Sali**, *claiming responsibility for the March 4 blast that killed 21 people*

"Aside from opposing war in Iraq and in Mindanao, we are removing our bras to symbolize our protest and refusal to continue to adhere to the dictates on women's role and place in society."
-Women's Rage spokesperson **Page Reyes**, *after 20 members of their group took off their bras near the US Embassy*

"This is not just karaoke singing. I hope all those who will watch it will find the concert a pleasant experience."
-**Interior Sec. Jose Lina**, *one of "Manila's Three Tenors" (together with MMDA Chair Fernando and then-Defense Sec. Angelo Reyes) on their charity concert*

"What security are you talking about? I don't see any security. They just enter and leave. I see no security."
-**GMA**, *chewing out Ninoy Aquino International Airport general manager Edgar Manda during a surprise visit to the airport*

"They are the vital links that will provide us with proof to indict, prosecute and jail Rose Baladjay for good. It would take a miracle to happen before she gets out of jail."
-National Bureau of Investigation Director **Reynaldo Wycoco** *on witnesses against alleged "Pyramid Scam queen" Rose Baladjay*

"I know in my heart that you will be my one true love and perfect partner."
-Actress **Ruffa Guttierez** *to husband Yilmaz Bektas during their much publicized wedding*

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Romel Adducul

That's

...from page 3

"*Kung magde*-declare *ka ng* national show, *sa palagay ko pwede na ikandidato ang* 'Eat *Bulaga* (If you were to declare a national show, I think you can consider 'Eat Bulaga' a candidate).'"
-*"Eat Bulaga" host, comedian* **Vic Sotto**, *on the enduring popularity of the noontime variety show*

APRIL

"It's a top of mind thing. 'Oh, I have fever and cold, therefore I have SARS.' It's really a psychological burden that's fueling the hysteria."
-*Health* **Secretary Manuel Dayrit**, *on the "overreaction' to SARS*

"When you fight an invader by whatever means available to you, you are not a terrorist; you are a hero."
-*Iraqi* **Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz**, *defending the use of suicide bombers in the Iraq war*

Chin Chin Gutierrez

"I am not anti-war. I am not anti-military."
-*Journalist* **Peter Arnett**, *after he was fired by NBC for giving an interview to Iraqi television*

"The explosion was so loud I fell off the truck."
-**Edgar Belar**, *Sulpicio Lines baggage checker, after a bomb exploded at Davao's Sasa Wharf, killing 15 people*

"She became a victim herself. She was a sacrificial lamb for justice and peace."
-**Sister Rorie Gonzalez** *on Sister Dulce de Guzman, the nun who died in the Davao blast*

"Remember Pinocchio? Take a closer look at (Ador) Mawanay. Do you notice any part of his anatomy that is growing longer?"
-**Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye**, *after Mawanay retracted his statement against Sen. Ping Lacson*

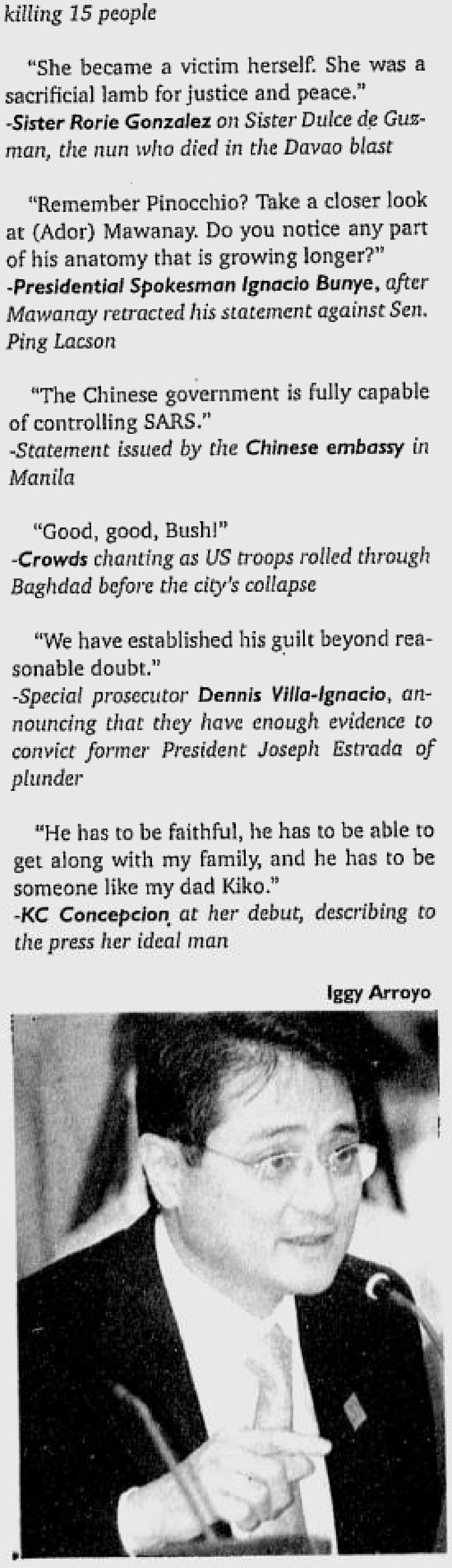
"The Chinese government is fully capable of controlling SARS."
-*Statement issued by the* **Chinese embassy** *in Manila*

"Good, good, Bush!"
-**Crowds** *chanting as US troops rolled through Baghdad before the city's collapse*

"We have established his guilt beyond reasonable doubt."
-*Special prosecutor* **Dennis Villa-Ignacio**, *announcing that they have enough evidence to convict former President Joseph Estrada of plunder*

"He has to be faithful, he has to be able to get along with my family, and he has to be someone like my dad Kiko."
-**KC Concepcion** *at her debut, describing to the press her ideal man*

Iggy Arroyo



Bishop Crisostomo Yalung

"Public utilities cannot be allowed to overcharge at the expense of the public, and worse, they cannot complain that they are not overcharging enough."
-*A* **Supreme Court resolution** *ordering Meralco to refund its customers for excess charges*

"There are serious and widespread defects in the administration of juvenile justice in the Philippines that must be urgently addressed."
-**Amnesty International**, *in a report on the treatment of child offenders in the Philippines*

"We cannot compete with Hollywood movies in terms of special effects. I suggest that we all go back to making character-driven films—films that are capable of making our country proud."
-**Gil Portes**, *director of acclaimed film "Mga Munting Tinig," after his movie was declared Best Picture at the Famas Awards*

"The international recognition is an important validation that we are doing the right thing."
-*Greenpeace's* **Von Hernandez**, *after winning the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, the first Filipino to be so honored*

"Ronnie (Poe) is my best friend, Ping is my protégé, while Danding is my *kumpadre*."
-**Former President Joseph Estrada**, *when asked who he would endorse in the 2004 presidential elections*

"New age, though attractive, also has ambiguous, questionable and even objectionable aspects... In this way, some New Age groups are becoming the new 'opium of the people.'"
-*Primer on New Age, issued by the* **Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines**

"The way we are treated by other people is annoying, even insulting. It's as if we're lepers, and people turn aside when they see us coming."
-*A* **resident of Alcala, Pangasinan,** *hometown of OFW Adela Catalon, who died of SARS*

KC Concepcion

"Our purpose in staging this series of attacks starting today is to cripple the country's economy."
-**Commander Bravo**, *after an MILF massacre left 15 people dead and 10 wounded in Tubod, Lanao del Norte*

"Just a new wheelchair, and an airpot by my bedside so I don't have to wake up any of my children when I get hungry at night."
-*Ailing comedian* **Rudy Manlapaz**, *when asked what kind of help he needed*

"We lived a life of sacrifice, but I understood what he was fighting for."
-**Maria Gumanoy**, *widow of slain human rights worker Eddie Gumanoy, killed in Oriental Mindoro*

"Hey, I'm on the same list with Yao Ming!"
-*Actress and environmental activist* **Chin Chin Gutierrez**, *after appearing on the cover of Time Magazine and being declared one of the Asian Heroes*

MAY

"The Battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on Sept. 11, 2001 and still goes on."
-**US President George W. Bush,** *on board the USS Abraham Lincoln as it returned from war duty in the gulf*

"Is text addictive? Text is what you make it. It can be a lifesaver, but it can also be toxic. It really depends on what it's used for."
-**Mon Isberto**, *Public Affairs Head, Smart Communications Inc., on whether texting was becoming a Pinoy addiction*

"Yilmaz has never been married to anyone but me. I am the only girl in his life now."
-**Ruffa Gutierrez Bektas,** *amidst reports that her husband Yilmaz was previously married to Selena Gorguzel*

"I have already reached a certain level of clout in Philippine politics. I have more credibility even without being in politics."
-**Imelda Marcos**, *when asked if she had any plans of running for president in 2004*

"A lot of friends bought tickets, but I don't think we'll still have them as friends after this concert."
-**MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando,** *joking during the "Salute" fundraising concert featuring himself, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and DILG Secretary Joey Lina*

"I'd rather stay in showbiz and make movies."
-*Actor* **Fernando Poe Jr.**, *when asked in May if he was running for President*

"We don't have money to watch the elephants, but now we can watch all we want. Thank you."
-*Bystander* **Lourdes Cruz**, *one of many who ogled runaway elephant Jumbo on Edsa*

"It was hard for us. Every once in a while we would sit down and remind ourselves who the good guys were and who the bad guys were."
-**Gracia Burnham**, *former Abu Sayyaf hostage, in her book "In The Presence of My Enemies," where she alleged that the Philippine government was in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf*

"To generalize that the military is in collusion with that terrorist group is unbelievable. Gracia Burnham is not in a position to give a balanced view of information."
-*Anonymous* **AFP official**, *reacting to Burnham's revelation*

"Intelligence is being talked of as a responsibility of the Armed Forces and the police. I would rather say that intelligence is the collective responsibility of everybody."
-*AFP Vice chief of Staff* **Gen. Rodolfo Garcia**, *after a blast in Koronadal was blamed on failure of military intelligence*

"The only thing I forgot to tell him when he was here was how much I love him."
-*16-year-old* **Glecery Marie Templo**, *daughter of OFW Getulio "Terry" Templo, killed when a bomb exploded in the expat housing complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

"I'm very excited. Not nervous at all."
-**Kakai Manotok**, *on the eve of her wedding to presidential son Dato Arroyo*

"I am proud to call you friend."
-**Bush** *to GMA during her US state visit*

"I'm not here to suggest it's payback time."
-**GMA** *on her state visit*

"I've never seen a woman President so small. But she's also cute, and she seems nice."
-**American reporter**, *overheard upon seeing GMA during her US state visit* .

"I drank water and brushed my teeth this morning, and there was no problem."
-*Manila Water Company Inc. spokesperson* **Joel Lacsamana**, *assuring the public that the water was safe from contamination after 19-year-old Randy Diaz fell into an aqueduct, his body allegedly disintegrating in the water system*

"I can look calm although I'm in trouble."
-*Bb. Pilipinas candidate* **Arianne Garcia**, *18, during a preliminary pageant interview. She was later found dead in her apartment, a suspected suicide*

"*Ay naku*, I don't want to talk about politics."
-**GMA**, *when asked in May about running for the presidency*

"He was very paternal, but strict with standards of integrity."
-*Former employee* **Fe de la Cruz**, *after the death of newspaperman Raul Locsin*

"The collision annoys me. These perennial accidents can and must be stopped."
-**GMA** *on the collision between a Superferry and the MV San Nicolas that claimed at least 28 lives*

"We are operating blind. We have the tools to monitor sea vessels, but we cannot use them because of technical problems."
-*Coast Guard Chief of Weapons, Communication, Electronics and Information Systems* **Luis Imperial**, *on why rotting equipment makes monitoring sea safety difficult*

JUNE

"When toilets are clean, people are healthy and happy."
-**The Singapore Restroom Association**, *which adopted a restroom rating system similar to that for hotels*

Sen. Panfilo Lacson

"Madame President, women and politicians are entitled to change their minds."
-**Bush**'s *alleged advice to GMA, urging her to run for office*

"I am deeply sorry for the consequences of any inappropriate expression of affection to my secretary."
-**Bishop Teodoro Bacani**, *in a letter apologizing for his alleged sexual harassment of his staff member*

"The bishop may be *malambing*. But his actions were already beyond the usual *lambing*. Otherwise, the victim wouldn't feel violated."
-*An* **INQUIRER source,** *quoting the mother of Bacani's alleged victim*

"I'm willing to undergo DNA testing anytime to prove that they're his children."
-**Christine**, *girlfriend of Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, after revealing that she was pregnant with the priest's second child*

"They must be physically and mentally fit, and of course good-looking."
-**MMDA Assistant General Manager Cora Cruz,** *announcing new qualifications for traffic enforcers*

"That's not a problem. I know all of them."
-*Boxing champion* **Manny Pacquiao**, *when told that media people were watching him throw a tantrum in a bar in General Santos after a female singer refused his advances*

"Every day for us now is a treasure, a permanent vacation where little things become important."
-**Sandra .Cayetano**, *wife of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, during the days before her husband succumbed to illness*

"For as long as policemen are receiving bribes, this problem will not be solved."
-**Sen. Robert Barbers**, *reacting to news that there*

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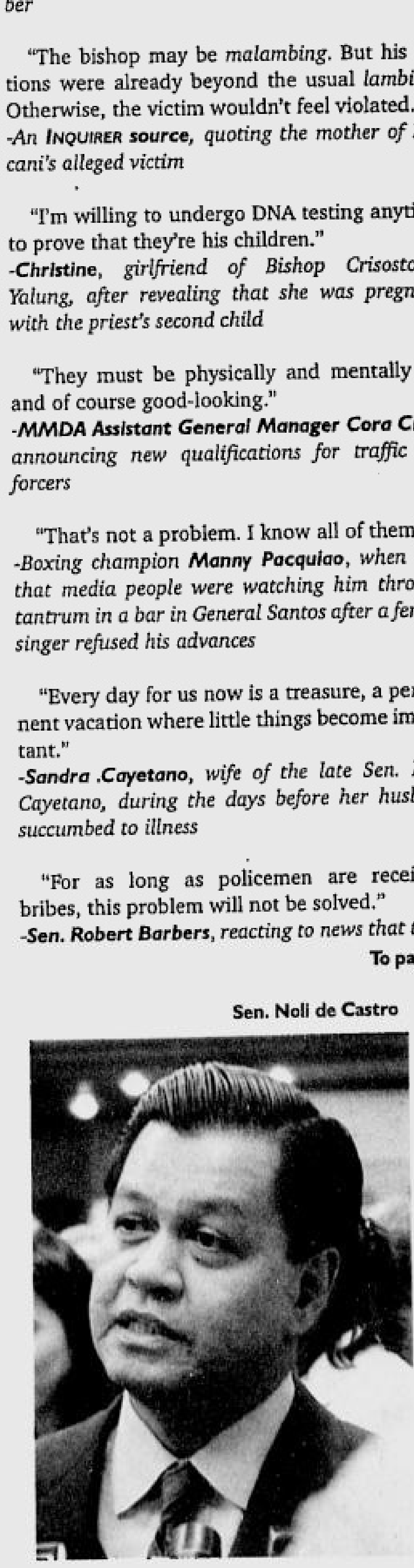
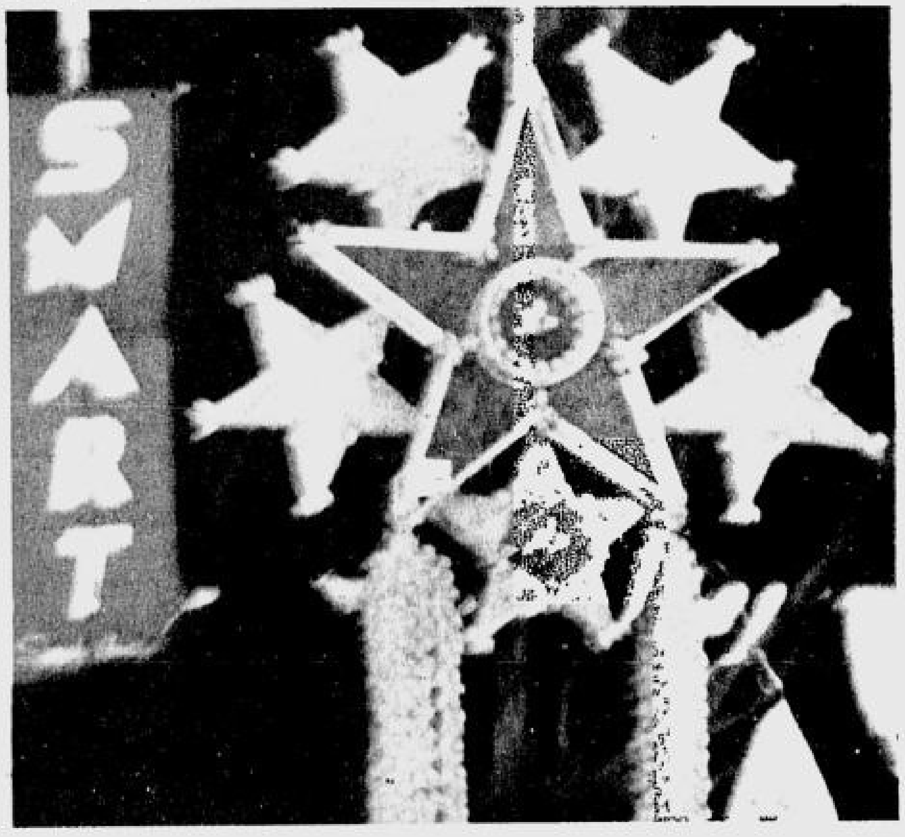
Sen. Noli de Castro



SMART S12zles with Pamaskong Aliwan



SMART
SMART
SMART

The Philippines is truly the Christmas capital of Asia, and sometimes an event so spectacular actually exemplifies the adage. For 2003, that event was the Pamaskong Aliwan on Roxas Boulevard from December 11th to the 13th. Smart proudly helped usher in this season of joy and shared it with their over 12 million strong subscriber family.

Pamaskong Aliwan started with this season's grand display of the float competition down Roxas Boulevard. This was followed by a festive display of the dancers dawning their Christmas colors and bringing their energy to light the season's spirits. The creativity of our country was showcased in the Christmas tree competition, from the traditional to the boundaries of imagination and celebration. The event culminated in the true beauty of our country, with Reyna ng Parol competition. Some of our country's finest beauties combined their shining pulchritude and brains to vie for the crown of Reyna ng Parol, hosted by Edu Manzano and Giselle Sanchez. Angela Jones added a Si2zling rendition of Beyonce Knowles "Crazy in Love". Some of the country's best bands and entertainers made their own brand of "carolling", from the hard-edged to the simple greetings to the fans and their families for the season.

As Smart continues to add to its family of subscribers, the event gave yet another chance for you to be part of the ongoing celebration. People were given the chance to swap their non-Smart SIM to the 64K Super SIM 2 for free! Having your Smart SIM is your ticket to Pamaskong Aliwan and other great events from Smart S12zles' ongoing parties. Once you switch to Buddy, you have your choice of a Smart premium item, and can participate in Smart S12zles gimmicks on the spot! Of course you will get the best nationwide coverage when you replace your old SIM with Smart Buddy's 64K Super SIM 2! Only from Smart, the true innovator in Philippine telecommunications!

Advt

That's

...from page 4

are now 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines

"I just blew it, but it's not the end of the world."
-Filipina golfer **Jennifer Rosales** *after being eliminated from the Giant Eagle Classic in Ohio*

"I placed them there because they might run toward the road and they might be hit by speeding vehicles."
-Widow **Elizabeth Cerezo** *of Nueva Vizcaya, on why she kept her quadruplets in a cage*

"I cannot perform miracles, but I have done my best."
-PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, *conceding that he cannot beat GMA's deadline for eliminating kidnap-for-ransom syndicates*

"I talked to his dad (Dolphy) early this year and I told him, '*Hindi ko na po talaga kaya* (I can't take it anymore).'"
-Actress **Eula Valdez**, *on how ex-husband Ronnie Quizon used to beat her up*

"She can be destructive."
-Ronnie Quizon *on Eula*

"You can say it was my longest jog ever, and it was dedicated to my dad."
-Lino Cayetano, *after taking his usual morning jog the day after Sen. Rene Cayetano died*

"His legacy is a large body of works of consistent excellence which has won the admiration of artists both in the local and international art scene."
-Citation *for the posthumous National Artist Award of artist Jose Joya*

"I need to learn a lot of things first."
-Sen. Noli de Castro, *on his topping the SWS survey for presidentiables*

Melanie Marquez

JULY

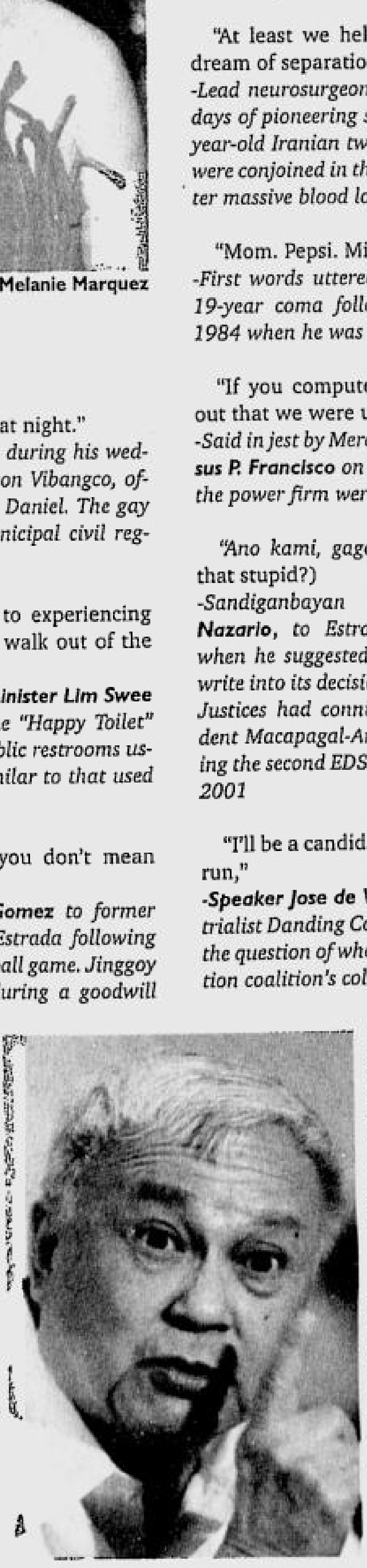
"I felt like a true lady that night."
-Sherwin (Shawie) Balagso *during his wedding in Ilocos Sur to Erickson Vibangco, officiated by a certain Pastor Daniel. The gay marriage is not in the municipal civil registry*

"I am looking forward to experiencing this toilet myself so I can walk out of the toilet feeling happy."
-Singapore Environment **Minister Lim Swee Say** *at the launching of the "Happy Toilet" campaign that will rate public restrooms using the five-star system similar to that used for hotels*

"Stop saying sorry if you don't mean it."
-TV-movie star **Richard Gomez** *to former presidential son Jinggoy Estrada following their fight during a basketball game. Jinggoy hit Gomez on the head during a goodwill game in the annual Star Olympics.*

"I'd rather die by firing squad than go to jail."
-Terrorist suspect **Muklis Yunos** *at the resumption of the Department of Justice investigation of the Dec. 30, 2000 LRT bombing*

"Not a lame duck but a soaring eagle."
-GMA's chief of staff **Rigoberto Tiglao** *describing the President after she announced that she would not seek a second term*



Joker Arroyo

Kris Aquino

"I am sure that wherever he is, he will continue to intercede for us so that genuine justice and peace may dwell on our land."
-Cardinal Sin *on Bacolod Bishop Antonio Fortich, 89, who died July 2, 2003. Fortich was an outspoken advocate of human rights during martial law*

"*Meron pa bang mas ha-*hard *pa dyan?* (Is there anything harder than that?)
-Sexy star **Rosanna Roces** *to guest Paolo Fabregas while massaging his right thigh. Roces' suggestive remarks brought on a fine and a disputed suspension from her GMA-7 talk show, "Star Talk" imposed by the regulatory body Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas*

"Nobody is reacting to an issue which involves the morality of the entire nation? It is now clear that everybody is scared."
-Sen. Joker Arroyo *on the Palace's silence about his disclosure of a secret agreement between the administration and industrialist Danding Cojuangco on the disputed coco levy funds*

"I think it's natural. They're both human beings. In fact, I'm so proud."
-Porfirio Rances, *on his daughter's scandalous affair with Bishop Crisostomo Yalung*

"For all these, we express our sorrow and ask for forgiveness from the Lord, as well as from our people."
-Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines *in a pastoral letter, on the alleged sex scandals involving Filipino bishops Crisostomo Yalung and Teodoro Bacani*

"At least we helped them achieve their dream of separation."
-Lead neurosurgeon **Dr. Keith Go**, *after two days of pioneering surgery separated the 29-year-old Iranian twins Lalek and Ledah who were conjoined in the head. The twins died after massive blood loss*

"Mom. Pepsi. Milk."
-First words uttered by **Terry Wallis** *after a 19-year coma following a car accident in 1984 when he was 20*

"If you compute that, it may even turn out that we were underpaid."
-Said in jest by Meralco President and CEO **Jesus P. Francisco** *on charges that executives of the power firm were overpaid*

"*Ano kami, gago?*" (Do you think we're that stupid?)
-Sandiganbayan **Justice Minita Chico-Nazario**, *to Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia when he suggested that the anti-graft court write into its decision that the Supreme Court Justices had connived with then Vice-President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust Estrada during the second EDSA People Power uprising in 2001*

"I'll be a candidate if no one else wants to run,"
-Speaker Jose de Venecia *as he urged industrialist Danding Cojuangco and GMA to settle the question of who will carry the administration coalition's colors in the 2004 elections*

"I have no regrets over my decision. It was the right thing to do, and I leave history to judge me on that."
-GMA *on her administration's support of the US-led Iraq invasion*

"I don't have to be president of this country. I don't need the job."
-Businessman **Danding Cojuangco**, *saying that the Sandiganbayan ruling against him was politically motivated*

"It was the hand of God that did it,"
-Talk n Text coach **Joel Banal** *after his team won over the Coca Cola Tigers to capture the All-Filipino Cup title*

"It has been an incredible charade from beginning to end."
-The **Supreme Court** *ruling declaring as ill-gotten the Marcos family's $683 million Swiss Bank accounts deposited in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank*

"How can we possibly vote for news readers to make policy?"
-Former Senator **Miriam Defensor-Santiago**, *commenting on Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda, former broadcasting journalists, and their qualifications for higher office*

"I need to be vice president."
-MMDA chair **Bayani Fernando**, *saying he was thinking of running for the post in 2004 "to make people's lives better."*

"If God wishes him not to be captured, then he will not be captured."
-Fathur Al Ghozi's mother, *on the terrorist suspect's escape from Camp Crame and the government's P5 million reward for his capture*

Manny Pacquiao

"*Parang pinapatay na naman nila ako.*" (It's like they're killing me again)
-Death convict **Lenido Lumanog** *of the Supreme Court's rejection of his request to recuperate from his kidney transplant in his home, instead ot the New Bilibid Prisons. Lumanog and four others were convicted in 1999 for the killing of ex-military intelligence chief Col. Rolando Abadilla in 1996, despite NPA's claim of responsibility*

AUGUST

"She berated me the whole time. She never gave me a chance. She kept yakking and yakking."
-Navy Lt.. (s.g.) **Antonio Trillanes IV** *telling the Feliciano Commision how "arrogant" his commander-in-chief was when he tried to air alleged anomalies in the military. Trillanes led a short-lived mutiny on July 27*

"What is their basis (for implicating me?). If they want to arrest me, then arrest me."
-Former First Lady **Loi Estrada** *on government efforts to link her to the July 27 mutiny*

"*Hindi ko ba kaya yun?* (Can I not afford it?)"
-Ousted President **Joseph Estrada** *on nasty talks about his 18-year-old daughter Jerika Larize's studying in an expensive school in England*

"It's hard to say that I had not received a single centavo. I might be hit by lightning."
-Defense Secretary **Angelo Reyes** *when asked if he had been in any form of corruption, in a radio interview about the Secretary's alleged unexplained wealth*

"No mother in her right senses would deliberately destroy her children's future by supporting a coup."
-Former movie star and Estrada partner **Laarni Enriquez**, *accused of allegedly allowing mutinous soldiers to use her place in Mandaluyong as a safehouse*

"I have prevented a coup. I think I have done something good for the government. Why wait to commit another mistake?"
-Former military intelligence chief **Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus** *on his resignation from the post in the wake of the Oakwood mutiny*

"I don't find my life interesting enough for a movie because I have not killed anyone and I only have one wife."
-MMDA Chair **Bayani Fernando**, *turning down an offer to have a movie made of his life*

Jaime Cardinal Sin

"Marriage exists solely between a man and a woman. Marriage is holy, while homosexual acts go against the natural moral law."
-Pope John Paul *in a fresh attempt to halt the growing momentum toward legalizing same-sex marriages in North America and Europe*

"It doesn't mean that if someone is good-looking, he is not a criminal."
-GMA, *referring to Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, who led the Oakwood mutiny and who has gotten media mileage for his looks*

"It's now time to forget the past. My best regards. Best wishes."
-Note scribbled by **NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco** *to Acsa Ramirez, following a year of animosity after Wycoco presented Ramirez as a suspect in a tax diversion scam at the LandBank. Acsa, a cashier at the bank, was actually the whistleblower*

"Now I have to take a full course of diabetes medication which I can barely afford."
-Dionisio Narvaez, *a diabetic, on Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's circular advising against the endorsement of ampalaya tea as alternative treatment to diabetes*

"Very Marcosian."
-Sen. Joker Arroyo *on Sen. Tessie Oreta's call for a snap presidential election, saying it would move the country forward*

"He is left holding an empty bag."
-Sen. Aquilino Pimentel *on Sen. Ping Lacson, after Lacson's star witness, Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay recanted his earlier testimony linking First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to the Jose Pidal account, allegedly used to launder bribery money for government contracts*

"The attack dogs were unleashed against me."
-Sen. Ping Lacson *after relatives and Sen. Mike Defensor "rescued" his star witness, Eugenio Mahusay, from a safehouse in Tagaytay*

Rosanna Roces

"It's a very good weight-reducing regimen. You eat fast. You move fast."
-Sen. Gregorio (Gringo) Honasan, *on life on the run after being linked to the Oakwood Mutiny in July*

"Is everybody okay?"
-Marilyn Manuel *to her family a day after she was declared by the United Nations as one of at least 23 people who died in a truck-bomb attack outside the UN headquarters in Iraq*

"We have assets who saw you with (Sen. Gregorio) Honasan during the state of rebellion. That's abetting rebellion."
-GMA *to GMA-7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez, who interviewed the senator whom the government had accused of masterminding the July 27 failed coup*

"Why can't I stay in a five-star hotel?"
-Army **Capt. Gerardo Gambala** *to Senate President Franklin Drilon who asked the mutineer why he chose Oakwood as hiding place from those allegedly hunting him down*

SEPTEMBER

"Killing (him) is definitely an option."
-Israel Vice Premier **Ehud Olmert** *on how to remove Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as an obstacle to peace*

To page 7

That's

...from page 6

"We started it, we finish it."
-**Sen. Joker Arroyo** *giving assurances that the Senate would continue its inquiry into the Jose Pidal controversy*

"I feel my life is over. I am a very private person and now the whole world has labeled me a mistress and a dummy of (Mike Arroyo's corporations)."
-**Vicky Toh**, *on Sen. Ping Lacson's exposé on Jose Pidal, identifying her as Arroyo's alleged mistress*

"I cannot imagine a life without my wife beside me. She is my life and my heart."
-First Gentleman **Mike Arroyo**, *on the state of his marriage to President Arroyo, in the wake of the Jose Pidal controversy that identified his accountant as his alleged mistress*

"I am a private citizen and I invoke my right to privacy."
-**Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo**, *younger brother of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, as he evaded questions about the Jose Pidal account during the Senate inquiry on the controversial properties that he was claiming*

"*Nagpa*-panic *na. Ganyan ang ginagawa ko noong* impeachment *ko.* (She's panicking. I did the same thing during my impeachment trial.) She's trying to court the masses.
-Former President **Joseph Estrada** *on GMA's visit to Tondo to distribute land titles to the poor*

"An empty shell of rumors."
-**GMA** *on an alleged conspiracy to destabilize her administration a day after security officials said they had foiled attempts to recruit military officers to take part in attempts to topple her*

FPJ

"Foreign courts cannot overturn our own Supreme Court, particularly on the issue of Marcos ill-gotten wealth."
-**GMA** *on the US court order stopping the transfer to the Philippines of the $683 million Marcos deposits in Swiss banks which the Supreme Court earlier forfeited in favor of the government*

"My life was at peace before you came into my life. That's when all my troubles began."
-Businessman **Alex Carlos** *to Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, denying Udong's claims that (Carlos) produced the documents to show the existence of the Jose Pidal account*

"God gave me this talent and I will share it with others. *Huwag na nating pag-usapan ang nakaraan* (Let's not talk of the past). Allow me *naman* to move on."
-**Judiel Nieva** *on his showbiz debut film "Siklo" under the name Angel dela Vega. Nieva claimed to be a visionary of the Blessed Mother in the early '90s, disappeared for years, and resurfaced as a woman*

"*Ikaw ba talaga ay isang sinungaling na tao? Di ka ba natatakot sa Diyos?* (Are you really a liar? Are you not afraid of God?)"
-Opposition **Sen. Tessie Oreta** *to Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, after he recanted an earlier testimony linking First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to the Jose Pidal account*

"No, I also pray, and I used to be an altar boy."
-**Udong Mahusay**, *replying to Oreta's query*

"On many occasions, my friends have to return to me what I wrote because they cannot understand my writing."
-**Victoria Toh**, *accountant of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, saying that the handwriting on the love letters linking her to Arroyo were "too legible" to be hers*

"Mr. Pidal, *alam ba ni misis toh?* (Does your wife know about this?)"
-**Sen. Ping Lacson** *asked 21 times in his second privilege speech linking the financial transactions and alleged romantic affairs of Jose Pidal to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. 'Toh' referred to Vicky Toh, Arroyo's alleged mistress*

Kaye Torres

"Government seminars need not entail the bringing along of a beach umbrella and sunblock."
-**Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.**, *chair of the House committee on appropriations, cautioning government agencies to exercise prudence in spending for seminars and trainings*

"It is God who puts ideas in my heart."
-**GMA**, *crediting a message from God for her earlier decision not to seek a second term. She changed her mind in November*

"(Joey Marquez) gave me a sexually transmitted disease."
-TV host **Kris Aquino**, *daughter of former President Aquino, on national television after a very public breakup with live-in partner TV-movie star and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez who, Kris said, pointed a gun at her*

"*Pasalamat si Joey patay na si* Ninoy. *Kung hindi, patay siya* (Joey should be thankful Ninoy is dead. Otherwise, he'd be dead)."
-Former President **Corazon Aquino** *to Parañaque mayor Joey Marquez, after learning that the actor had infected her youngest daughter, Kris, with a sexually transmitted disease*

"I categorically deny beating up Kris and poking a gun at her."
-**Joey Marquez** *in a statement responding to Kris Aquino's televised confession about their relationship*

"Do not judge my brother, he's not a book!"
-Former model-beauty queen **Melanie Marquez** *defending Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez on the TV program "Debate" which tackled the very public split between him and movie star Kris Aquino*

OCTOBER

"As you know, politics and showbiz, there's quite a big difference."
-**FPJ**, *on being asked the difference between politics and showbiz*

"Impeachment is essentially a political process... and because this is a political process, the people have every right to get involved. Take sides."
-**Fr. Joaquin Bernas**, *S.J., on the Davide impeachment controversy*

"(They should) act like judges (by not judging us) right away."
-Cavite **Rep. Gilbert Remulla**, *on the pro-Davide judges*

"I would say this is the best time in my life because this is a challenge. Sometimes you have to cry, but I do cry not for myself but for the people that are supporting us."
-**Chief Justice Hilario Davide**

"For me to lose my patience, that is really something."
-Former Finance Sec. **Jose Isidro Camacho**, *after walking out of a Congressional budget hearing after waiting 10 hours to be called*

Mark Jimenez

"Like all nations, we have to face the threat of terrorism but let us stop terrorizing ourselves and keep the strength to jump forward day by day."
-**GMA** *on living with terrorism*

"One does not acquire the ability to govern six months after declaring that he is running."
-**FVR** *on FPJ*

"The peace and order in our country must be really bad."
-**Angeli Pangilinan**, *Mrs. Gary V., after having her sports utility vehicle stolen, again*

NOVEMBER

"It was named after me, and it would be fitting if I died here."
-Former ATO chief **Panfilo Villaruel**, *on the NAIA control tower where he was gunned down by police after he took control of it*

"I would say that it really happens from time to time."
-PNP chief **Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.**, *on the killing of Villaruel*

"All of a sudden, I have respect for him. This is the first time he took a stand. This thing can ruin him politically, but he ceased to be a politician and became a statesman."
-Economist **Winnie Monsod** *on House Speaker Jose de Venecia, after he called on Congress to respect the Supreme Court decision dismissing the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide*

"I am young. I can wait."
-**Rep. Michael John Duavit**, *one of the signatories in the impeachment complaint, after the Supreme Court dismissed it*

"She would always smile when looking at the defense lawyers and smirk when she was listening to the prosecutors."
-Running priest **Fr. Robert Reyes** *on Quezon City Judge Teresita Yadao's body language after she dismissed the "Kuratong Baleleng" case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson*

"That's all for show."
-**Sen. Joker Arroyo** *on GMA's plan for "total reconciliation"*

"*Talagang inaamin kong kasalanan ko yan, at pagbabayaran ko kasalanan ko.* (I admit it's my fault, and I will pay for it.)"
-Former representative **Mark Jimenez**, *after pleading guilty to election fraud and tax evasion charges in the US, and being sentenced to two years in jail and a $1.2 million fine*

"I knew I was going to knock him out."
-Boxer **Manny Pacquiao**, *after winning over Mexican Antonio Barrera in the 11th round*

"Finally, she was enlightened, and I am grateful to her for being compassionate now."
-Former president **Joseph Estrada**, *after GMA hinted she was open to letting him go to the US for knee surgery*

Chief Justice Hilario Davide

"What a shame! The support I needed had to come from an American."
-**Kaye Torres**, *Nida Blanca's daughter, complaining that the NBI and the Justice Department bungled the extradition case against Rod Strunk*

"There's some sort of bug onstage and it's scaring me!"
-**Mariah Carey**, *after spotting a cockroach while performing at The Fort*

"I am retiring, but I'm not keeping quiet. You cannot stop me from speaking."
-**Jaime Cardinal Sin** *on his retirement as Archbishop of Manila*

Secretary Isidro Camacho

"Moviegoers might think of Dumaguete as a city where cheap sex can be had, and where people find pleasure in videotaping sexual activities."
-Dumaguete **Vice Mayor William Ablong**, *asking that the movie "Sex Scandal," loosely based on true-life porn film "Dumaguete Scandal," not be shown in his town*

"When you say 'bed' you're thinking sexual. It's not sexual, we're going to sleep. I tuck them in. It's very charming, very sweet."
-**Michael Jackson**, *on sleeping with children*

"You are putting words in my mouth."
-**Kris Aquino**, *after the* INQUIRER *reported she was supporting FPJ*

"She told me she only had two choices... whoever would be opposition standard bearer—whether it is I or FPJ."
-**Sen. Panfilo Lacson**, *on Kris Aquino*

"I hope that since we share the same roots we would endorse a candidate who can continue our father's legacy."
-**Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III**, *on his sister Kris*

"He's in fact intelligent. He's got substance."
-**Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco** *on FPJ*

"You know, I've been reading a book on Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic. *'Yun siguro gusto nilang gawin sa akin.*"
-Former President **Joseph Estrada**, *after government blocked his appeal to go to the US for knee surgery*

DECEMBER

"Ten years from now, they (Malaysians and Singaporeans) will all say 'how we wish we had a Raul Roco in Malaysia and Singapore.'"
-**Raul Roco**, *on launching his candidacy*

"Not necessarily."
-**Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.**, *on whether an FPJ presidency would be disastrous for the country*

"We hope this new *laban-bawi* of designation and assignment is not a novel precedent."
-**Guillermo Domondon**, *head of the Association of Chiefs of Police of the Philippines, Inc., on yet another PNP revamp*

"I humbly believe it is imperative at this time to establish such a center, following reports of alleged suicide contagion among students in elite Metro Manila schools."
-**Miriam Defensor Santiago** *calling for the establishment of a Youth Suicide Prevention Center, shortlty after her son Alexander Robert took his own life*

"*Gusto ko nang magbagong buhay, at nagbabagong-buhay na ako* (I want to change my ways and I am changing my ways)."
-Abu Sayyaf commander **Galib Andang**, *aka Commander Robot, after his capture*

"By giving a knighthood to a rogue like Mick Jagger, the prime minister has denigrated all worthy recipients of honors from Her Majesty the Queen."
-**Outraged woman** *after the Rolling Stone front man was knighted*

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him. The tyrant is a prisoner."
-US Administrator **L. Paul Bremer** *on the capture of Saddam Hussein*

"We will miss him, and the world will miss him."
-**GMA** *on the death of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople*

"My only regret is that I was not strong enough to emphasize to him the value of stopping his smoking."
-**Sen. Juan Flavier** *on the late Blas Ople*

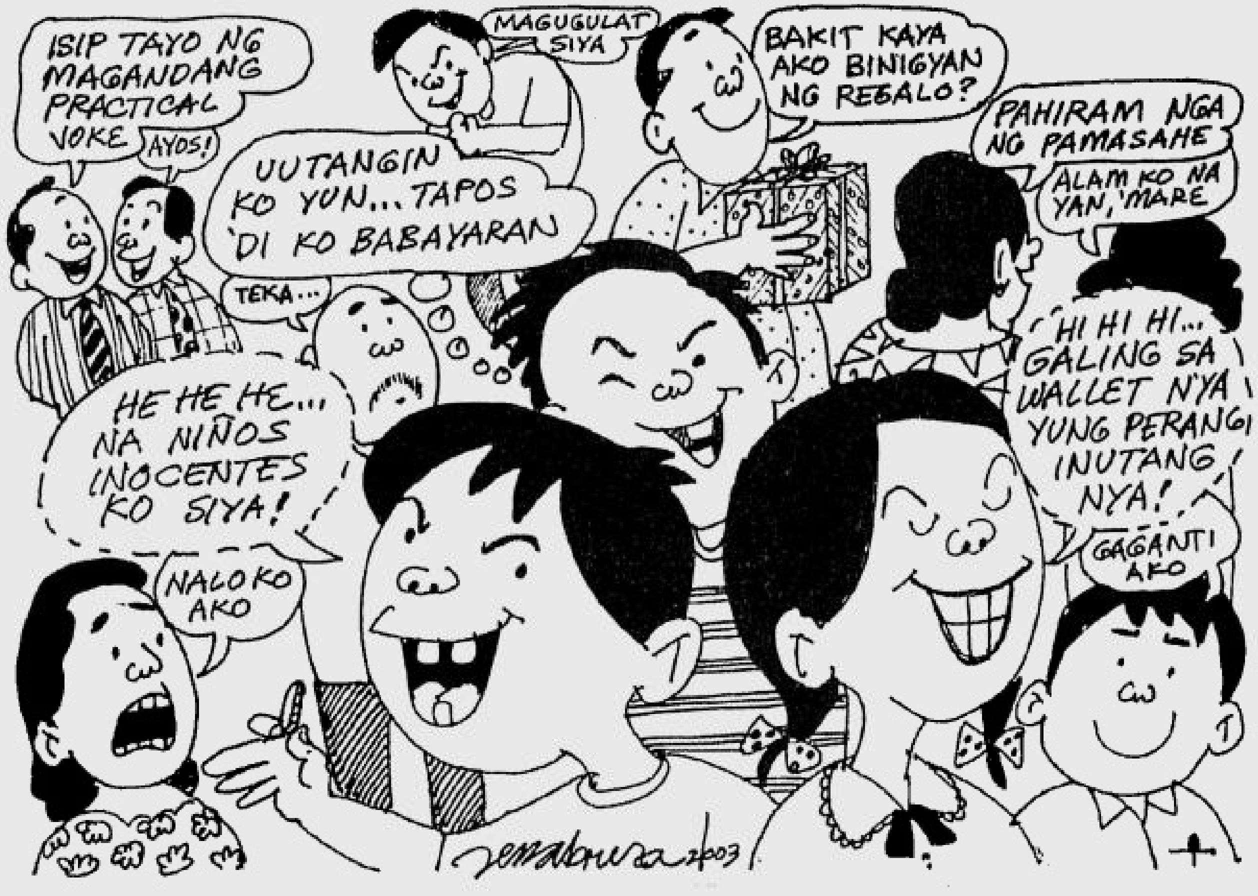
"I wasn't booed at, the people there applauded me."
-Former Justice Secretary **Hernando Perez**, *denying reports he was heckled at a cockpit*

"That is why FPJ is popular. The masses want a hero to rescue them from the system."
-Economic Planning Secretary **Romulo Neri**, *on big business lobbyists*

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Niños Inocentes


ISIP TAYO NG MAGANDANG PRACTICAL JOKE
AYOS!
MAGUGULAT SIYA
UUTANGIN KO YUN... TAPOS 'DI KO BABAYARAN
TEKA...
BAKIT KAYA AKO BINIGYAN NG REGALO?
PAHIRAM NGA NG PAMASAHE
ALAM KO NA YAN, 'MARE
HE HE HE... NA NIÑOS INOCENTES KO SIYA!
NALOKO AKO
HI HI HI... GALING SA WALLET N'YA YUNG PERANG INUTANG NYA!
GAGANTI AKO

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GOT u!

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Falling In Love!

30 Finalists
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Nokia 3650
each

Special Prizes
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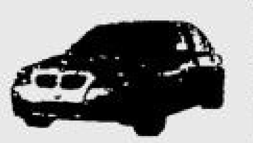
- ₱10,000 to the *Most Downloaded Picture Per Theme*

Grand Prize
₱50,000
2nd Prize:
₱20,000
3rd Prize:
₱10,000



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To join, simply Click-Create-and-Send your best original MMS photo message based on the following themes:

December 14, 2003 to January 4, 2004 - Bloopers
December 29, 2003 to January 25, 2004 - Barkada Moments
January 26, 2004 to February 22, 2004 - Family Fun

You can send in your entries anytime on the given timeframe.
Judging will start the next day after the last day of submission of entries.

You can also share the fun with your friends because all entries can be downloaded and forwarded!

To view all entries, just visit the SMART WAP site.

**Only pictures taken with a camera phone (built-in or attached) are valid as entries for this contest.*

1. To get started: key in GOTU and send to 373
2. To register: key in REG <NAME/ADDRESS> and send to 373
3. Here's how to create your MMS entry:

Click
Use your celfone's digital camera to take pictures.

Create
Compose an MMS message by adding text to the picture you took.

Send
Send composed multimedia photo message to 373.

In case your MMS hasn't been activated yet, send MMS to 211.

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SMART GOLD Simply The Gold Life
Buddy
addict
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SMART
Simply Amazing!

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